

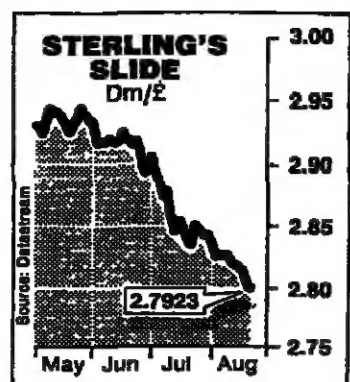
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Reserves held ready as fear of French 'no' to Maastricht sends markets tumbling

Banks prepare to prop up sterling

BY ROBIN OAKLEY
IN LONDON AND
SEAN MAC CARTHAIGH
IN PARIS

THE pound fell to a new low against the German mark yesterday after a French opinion poll showed for the first time a majority against ratification of the Maastricht treaty. While three other French polls showed a slim majority in favour of the treaty on European union, all four polls show an increase in the number of voters who oppose the treaty.



bank are this morning poised to defend the pound and other currencies in the European exchange-rate mechanism against the ad-

vance of the German mark. The pound dropped half a penny when news emerged of the first French poll, falling to DM2.8012, a whisker away from DM2.7780, its absolute ERM floor against the mark. If forced to its lower limit, the Bank of England, backed by the Bundesbank, could use billions of pounds of reserves to support sterling.

for a crisis with the Bundesbank versus the rest," Paul Chertkow, head of global currency research at UBS Phillips & Drew, said. John Major and Mr Lamont, who met for breakfast yesterday, are now resigned to a series of upheavals for the pound in the run-up to the French referendum on September 20. Officials were keen to emphasise, however, that the prime minister and the Chancellor did not review ERM policy nor did they intend to react to market gyrations.

manipulate the markets. Despite the government's studied calm yesterday, Tory MPs remain jittery about the Chancellor's prospects of saving off higher interest rates. Dealers are nervous that if the French should vote against Maastricht, the pattern of European exchange and interest rates would unravel. Britain would have great difficulty in keeping its interest rates as close as they are at present to the much stronger German economy and British loans and mortgages would become more expensive.

for Paris-Match and A2 and FR3, two state-owned television stations, among a sample of 1,004 people. All the respondents, who were interviewed by telephone on Sunday and Monday, were over 18 and on the electoral register. The last survey carried out by BVA at the end of July showed that voters would ratify the treaty by 56 per cent to 44 per cent. The polling organisation said that support for the treaty had fallen from a peak of 65 per cent in mid-June. A second poll, to be published this morning by L'Express magazine, shows a 2 per cent majority. Continued on page 14, col 8

Carrington resigns on eve of Yugoslavia conference

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND NICHOLAS WOOD

ON THE eve of the London conference on Yugoslavia, Lord Carrington, the former Nato secretary-general who has headed the European Community peace effort for the past year, announced yesterday that he was resigning. He said in a terse statement that he could no longer devote to the conference "the full-time effort which will obviously be necessary and will extend over a considerable period". He had however been asked, and had agreed, to continue to be associated with the conference.

and there are strong candidates from other countries. Nato failed to agree on a military plan to protect relief convoys in the former Yugoslavia and the alliance said yesterday that it would wait until after the conference to look at the options again. A spokesman said after a four-hour meeting of Nato ambassadors that they had considered various plans.

TV reporter wounded

MARTIN Bell, the BBC's war correspondent, was yesterday wounded during a mortar attack in Sarajevo. He immediately underwent surgery in a UN field hospital and two pieces of shrapnel were removed from his stomach and groin. He was then flown to Zagreb for further treatment. His condition was last night in stable condition. More than a hundred journalists have been caught in the crossfire in the Yugoslav civil war. Twenty-seven have been killed.

Photograph, page 14

Lord Carrington had become increasingly weary with his fruitless shuttle diplomacy. Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said yesterday that any settlement emerging from the conference and its follow-up in Geneva would be based on the groundwork Lord Carrington and his team had laid.

The United States and Russia agreed yesterday on the need to establish a permanent diplomatic mechanism to handle all aspects of the war, including sanctions compliance, refugees and peacekeeping efforts. Lawrence Eagleburger, the acting American Secretary of State, and Mr Kozirev forged a joint position in an hour-long meeting.

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Accidental eavesdropper: Cyril Reenan peers at the press from his home yesterday

20,000 phone hotline to listen to 'royal' tape

BY ALAN HAMILTON AND MELINDA WITTSTOCK

MORE than 20,000 people telephoned The Sun yesterday to listen to a recording of an alleged telephone conversation between the Princess of Wales and a man called James. Listening to the entire saga would have put £11 on their telephone bill, and the newspaper said it would give the £50,000 profit from the hotline to charity.

prised by the few complaints it received after last week's publication of photographs of the Duchess of York semiknaked, while on holiday with her financial adviser. By yesterday, it had received 51 written complaints.

Cyril Reenan, a retired bank manager living in Abingdon, Oxfordshire, was named yesterday as the radio amateur with the scanning device and the large aerial in his tree who stumbled across the conversation, said to have occurred on New Year's eve 1989 between the Princess at Sandringham and an amorous caller on a mobile telephone. Mr Reenan claimed yesterday that he and his wife had picked up the conversation by accident while amusing themselves with an electronic gadget.

The BBC, which yesterday denied that its timing was in any way deliberate, has hired Andrew Davies, the award-winning scriptwriter, to adapt Mr Dobbs' book. To Play The King. Filming will begin early next year. In To Continued on page 14, col 1

Hurricane forces thousands to evacuate New Orleans

BY DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HUNDREDS of thousands of people fled their homes in Louisiana yesterday as Hurricane Andrew continued to churn across the Gulf of Mexico to New Orleans. A total of 1.7 million people have been advised to leave the state and Mississippi.

Three hundred thousand of New Orleans's half million inhabitants have left and another 500,000 have abandoned other lowland areas of Louisiana. New Orleans, which lies eight feet below sea level, is protected by a series of levees built to contain water from the Mississippi and Lake Pontchartrain. It was feared that if Andrew hit the river, water could be forced into the lake and if that burst its banks, the city would be flooded.

about 20 miles south of Miami. Officials estimate damage at \$15-20 billion and are looking to Washington and the private sector for help. The local First Union bank has offered \$1 billion in loans to victims.

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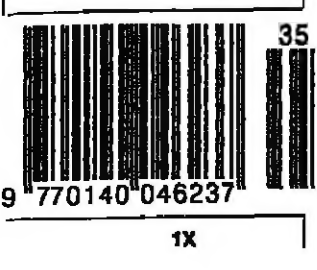
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Waqar Younis: defies laws of aerodynamics

Scientists go in to bowl for England

BY ALAN HAMILTON

SCIENTISTS at the University of Hertfordshire have set up a research project to crack the code of an enemy secret weapon that has inflicted great damage on England. Using computers, wind tunnels, the laws of aerodynamics and a large number of cricket balls, they will attempt to discover exactly how the Pakistani bowlers Waqar Younis and Wasim Akram achieve their devastating reverse swing.

ment had received calls from newspapers wanting to know how Waqar and Wasim achieved such odd trajectories with the ball. "We tried to get the answer from the horse's mouth, saying we were engaged in serious research, but the Pakistani officials gave us the brush-off: there is a bit of an atmosphere at the moment," Mr Lewis said yesterday.

to Mr Lewis, the airflow patterns round a ball in the wind tunnel will be very small and difficult to measure, and whatever the ball is mounted on may falsify the results.

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If you dream about
Oysters we recommend
seeing a specialist



It's perfectly natural to dream about owning a Rolex Oyster. Some of the world's most famous people consider it an achievement to own one. A Rolex watch is a combination of durability, high performance and classic styling. The distinctive Oyster case is carved from a solid block of gold, platinum, or stainless steel. When it's time to make your dream come true we recommend you consult the specialists at Watches of Switzerland. You'll benefit from over 120 years of experience, free insurance cover, 12 months interest free credit, specialist advice, in-house watchmakers and the very best after sales service. So why not call in for a coffee and a chat to see for yourself why more people realise their dream at Watches of Switzerland. Rolex Oyster Perpetual Day-Date (18ct gold) £2,071 available on interest free credit (APR 9%) 10% deposit with 12 monthly payments of £605.32.

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IRA blamed for firebomb attacks on show castle

By CRAIG SETON

THE IRA was thought yesterday to have been responsible for three firebomb attacks that damaged property worth up to £250,000 at a military museum at Shrewsbury Castle, Shropshire, and small firms in two shops in the town.

The centre of Shrewsbury was sealed off early yesterday when about 50 fire officers were called to deal with a blaze at the castle, which houses a collection of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry, the Shropshire Yeomanry and the Shropshire Horse Artillery. It was thought later that two devices, one explosive and one incendiary, may have gone off on two floors.

Another was believed to have been activated by a sprinkler device at the Staks soft furnishings store in the town's Charles Darwin shopping centre. Minor charring was later discovered at Wades, a furniture shop in the same complex.

No warning was given and

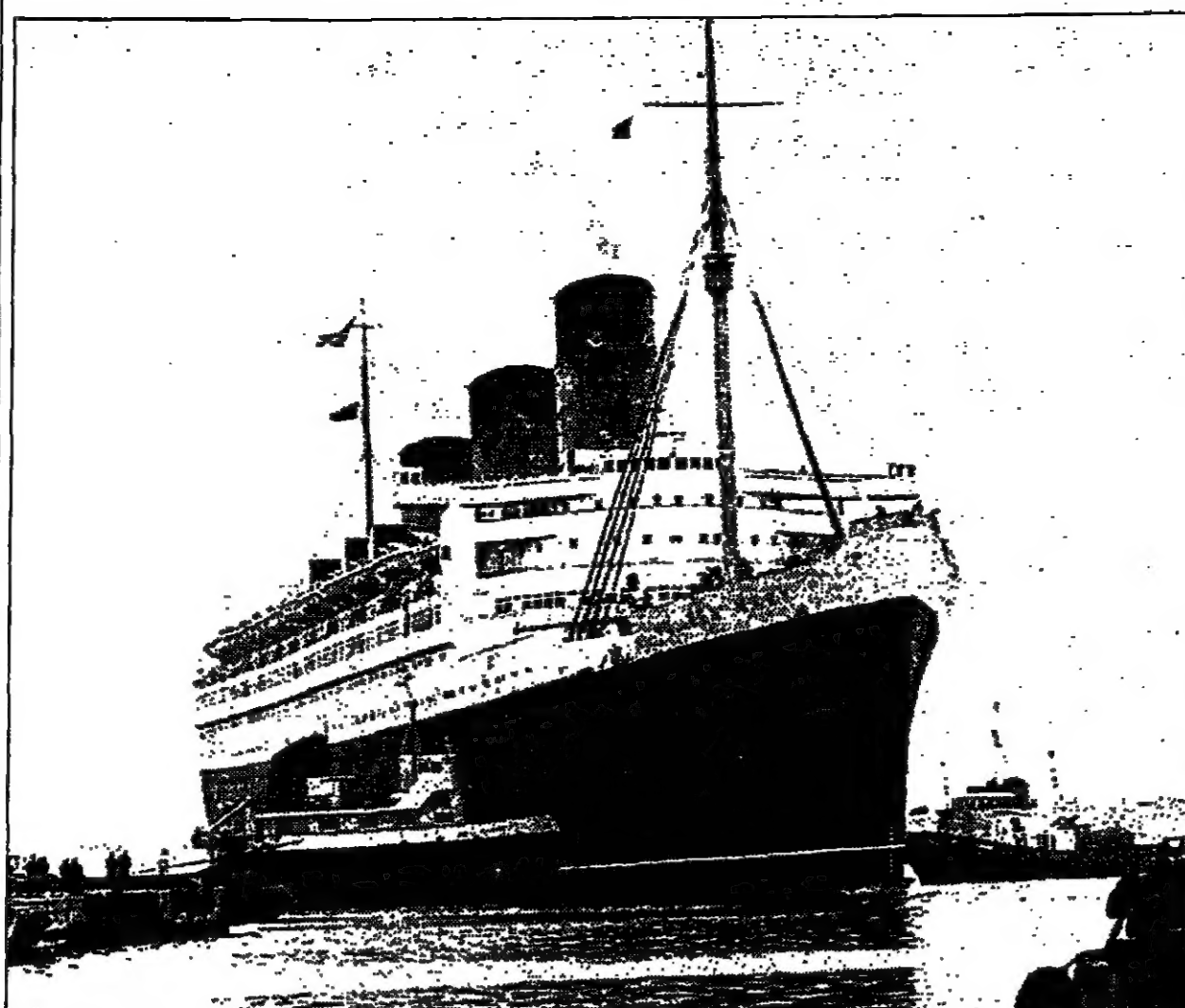
no group had claimed responsibility for the incidents by last night, but Inspector Alan Hows of West Mercia police said terrorists were thought to have carried them out. Derek Conway, the MP for Shrewsbury and Atcham, said it was "more than likely" that it was the work of the IRA.

Geoffrey Parfitt, curator of the Shropshire Regimental Museum at the castle, said the fire and possible explosion there were a disaster. He estimated the cost of repairs at £250,000 and said many relics were irreplaceable.

Exhibits of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and Shropshire Yeomanry had been worst affected. Showcases and windows had been shattered and there was extensive smoke damage. David Thursfield, an assistant chief constable of West Mercia, said he had been in touch with Commander George Churchill-Coleman, head of New Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad. Experts were examining the three scenes to try to piece together evidence of what had happened.

He said it was reasonable to assume the devices at the three sites had been planted by the same person or group and added: "No warnings were given and to date no organisation has claimed responsibility."

Police searched for other devices in the town throughout the morning and appealed for witnesses. Three years ago a series of bombs destroyed an accommodation block at Tern Hill barracks, near Shrewsbury, shortly after it was evacuated by members of the Parachute Regiment. The IRA later claimed responsibility.



Days of glory: tugs bringing the Queen Mary to her berth at Southampton in 1965

Queen Mary's home port hopes again

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND BEN MACINTYRE

A GOLD sovereign was offered yesterday to save the Queen Mary from the rocks and bring her home to Southampton from where she sailed on her maiden transatlantic voyage to New York in 1936. But fetching home the rusting 81,237 ton liner, which won the Blue Riband in 1938 for the fastest Atlantic crossing, will cost an extra £15 million including a refit, towing fees and dockside infrastructure at Southampton.

The three-funnelled liner, launched in a golden era when even third-class passengers had a choice of five hors d'oeuvres for dinner, is languishing as a loss-making

tourist attraction at Long Beach awaiting the scrap-merchants now that the Walt Disney Corporation has cancelled its lease on her from the Californian city.

The British shipping company Sea Containers made the offer through its wholly-owned subsidiary RMS Queen Mary Project with the backing of the city of Southampton, enclosing a prerequisite £50,000 deposit which may or may not be refunded if its bid is accepted.

The cost of bringing her back would have to be met by grants from heritage bodies, the public and possibly the government. Sea Containers

would manage the ship as an hotel and include a transatlantic liners' museum.

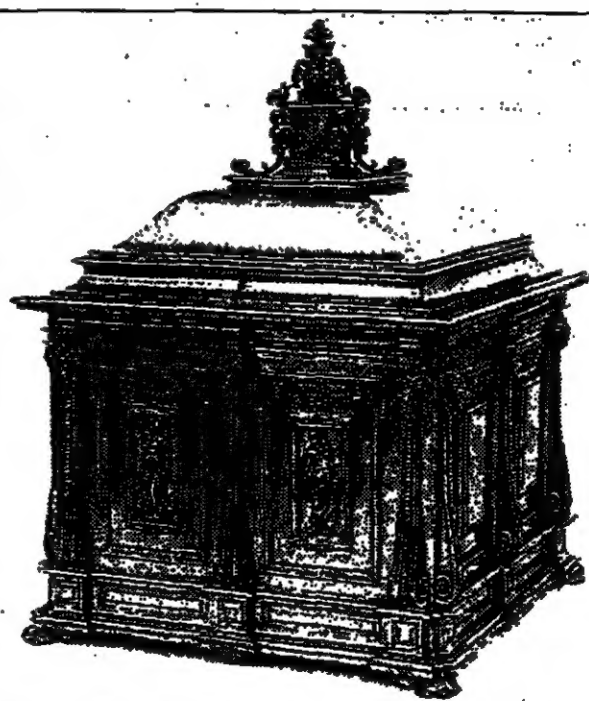
Steve Harris, spokesman for Sea Containers, said: "The one sovereign offer is a token amount. The real cost will be in bringing her home. But it will be a marvellous occasion when she finally sails up Southampton Water for the first time in nearly 30 years."

David Abraham, deputy leader of the Conservative group on Southampton city council, said: "We are saying to Long Beach 'Make the ship a gift to us so we can bring her home' and we are looking at ways of funding the project in order to get her

here."

Walt Disney has already spent £15 million on repairs and has decided to pull out of its lease at the end of this year after losing more than \$1 million a month. The city of Long Beach says a final decision on the fate of the ship will not be made until next month.

Several groups, including Japanese business concerns and a Mississippi gambling tycoon, are believed to have made offers for the 1,018 ft liner, whose engines and boilers have been removed, but the city fathers of Long Beach have said they will not necessarily sell to the highest bidder.



Stolen: the missing casket bears the Medici arms

£200,000 casket stolen from V&A

By SARAH JANE CHECKLAND
SALEROOM CORRESPONDENT

A SEVENTEENTH century Florentine casket worth £200,000 was stolen from the Victoria and Albert museum in Kensington during opening hours on Sunday. Circumstances were so similar to those surrounding a theft last November that the V&A has warned other museums that a gang could be operating.

Jim Close, the museum's assistant director, declined to describe how the casket was taken but said: "The pattern suggested that it was the same people."

A patrolling warder noticed at 4.40 pm that the 10ins high casket had disappeared from its case. In the previous incident, also in a gallery close to the museum's Exhibition Road entrance, a £100,000 baroque altarpiece was torn apart when thieves were disturbed, but following publicity it was recovered.

The missing casket bears the Medici arms, Grand Ducal crown and Florentine lily on the domed lid, as well as panels containing the figures of Mars and Minerva.

Jackson leaves with a glow

By NICHOLAS WATT

MICHAEL Jackson left Britain yesterday after a host of children spoke glowingly of how he set aside three hours to listen to their feelings on the world's problems.

The 84 children from all over Europe spelled out their views at a meeting at Regent's College, London, on subjects that included racism, the environment, famine, and AIDS. A girl of 12 was allowed the rare privilege of photographing the singer. But Jenna Tomlin, from Bromley, Kent, learnt an early lesson about dealing with a superstar: not a photo could be released without Jackson's approval and just before leav-

ing yesterday he allowed only two shots to be published. The youngsters met to help Jackson draw up a charter for his newly launched Heal the World Foundation, for which the singer has set aside millions of dollars.

Mohammed Ahmed, 16, from Brixton, south London, chose to talk about racism because he said that a friend was murdered in a racially motivated attack. "When I told Michael Jackson what had happened he was touched and said he was sorry. He cared. I never thought someone as rich as him would take that kind of interest."

At the end of the meeting

Jackson made a speech. Lotta Ljungquist, 16, from Gothenburg, Sweden, said: "He had a sore throat but still managed to say that he loved us all. He said that as long as he lives he will always help our children."

CORRECTION

In a table in a report on house repossession (August 24) the percentage change in orders made for West Yorkshire should have been -1, and the percentage change in suspensions for Devon and Leicestershire should have been +1 and +111 respectively.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£46,000 stolen from hospital patient

A cancer patient has had £46,000 stolen from his private bank accounts while in the care of Guy's Hospital Trust in London. The trust has told Remo Gaida, 79, that it will reimburse him if he fails to recover his money through the courts. Mr Gaida discovered that his savings had been taken while he was a resident of Becker House nursing home in New Cross, southeast London, part of the Guy's trust. He has been a resident there for five years. Police enquiries suggest that the money was taken by forged correspondence with Mr Gaida's bank. An employee at the nursing home, suspended after the theft was discovered and wanted for questioning by police, is believed to be abroad. Police have interviewed another person, not employed by the hospital, about the missing money. A trust spokeswoman said that the trust had no legal responsibility for Mr Gaida's losses but felt it had a moral responsibility to him "and wishes to ensure he doesn't suffer financial loss through this theft while he was in our care".

Women's clinic saved

A clinic in west London that has helped thousands of women to overcome problems associated with the menopause has been saved from imminent closure. The clinic, at the Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, was under threat of closure after the drug company that provided funding decided to pull out. The clinic, which has treated between 30,000 and 40,000 women over the past 12 years, will now be funded by the Hammersmith and Queen Charlotte's Special Health Authority. Keith Edmunds, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist, said that the clinic was set up before the benefits of hormone replacement therapy were widely known. Advances in treatment for menopausal problems had increased the number of women seeking help for distressing symptoms.

Garden swallowed up

A family was in shock yesterday after part of their garden disappeared down an old mineshaft in Cornwall. A crater, 100ft deep and 15ft long, opened up in seconds at the back of the Wakem family's home in Gunnislake. They learnt about the collapse when their paperboy ran into the house shouting that the garden had disappeared. Now the Wakems, who have three children, aged seven, six and three, are waiting to hear whether any more of their garden is likely to disappear. Their detached home is 60 yards from where a 75ft-deep crater swallowed up a whole garden two months ago. Alyson Wakem, 34, who built the house with her husband 11 years ago, said: "We knew the whole area was riddled with mineshafts but we assumed they were safe as there were no restrictions on where we built our house."

Ford to power Jaguars

Ford is to build the next generation of engines that will power Jaguar cars, it was announced yesterday. Jaguar has ruled out building engines for cars due on the market at the end of the century at its own Radford works in Coventry and has opted for the £100 million investment in Ford's engine works at Bridgend, South Wales. Radford has been making engines for Coventry Jaguars for 40 years, with the V6 and V12 engines achieving worldwide fame for their smoothness and power. The new four-litre V8 AJ26 will go into production in 1996 and will be the first big project Ford has undertaken for Jaguar since buying the company for £1.6 billion in 1989. As many as 50,000 engines a year will be made, putting in doubt engine production at Radford, although it may continue to make V12 engines.

Firemen hit at EC rule

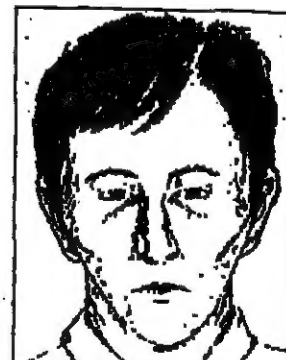
Chief fire officers have warned the government that European Community fire regulations threaten to increase delays in issuing fire certificates and safety inspections. The regulations propose to extend fire safety precautions to small offices, shops, factories and meeting places. The fire authority, rather than the local authority, becomes the enforcement agency. Fire chiefs say that enforcing the regulations could cost an additional £13 million and that, without extra resources, the fire service will face increasingly difficulty in meeting its statutory obligations. Two reports yesterday criticised the Isle of Wight and Surrey fire services for failing to meet targets for safety inspections and for their growing backlog in handling applications for fire certificates.

Tinsley leads draughts

Dr Marion Tinsley has taken the lead in the world draughts championship against his computerised challenger, winning the twenty-fifth of their 40 scheduled games with the Edinburgh Cross opening (Ray Keene writes). Chinook, the Canadian computer program, capitulated after 26 moves of the game, at London's Park Lane hotel. Draughts and computer experts say that Dr Tinsley, 65, of Florida, who has held the world draughts title for 38 years, now appears to be mastering the machine, which can calculate three million moves a minute. The score is three wins for Dr Tinsley, two to Chinook and 21 draws. By draughts standards, this is a bloodthirsty encounter. In 1928, the match in New York between Samuel Gonotsky and Michael Lieber ended with 40 draws and no wins.

Police hunt rapist

Police have issued an artist's impression, right, of a man believed to have carried out two rapes, two attempted rapes and a serious sexual assault on women in south London. He is white, aged 19-30, between 5ft 7in and 5ft 9in, with a pale complexion and brown, lank hair. He often wears a black leather jacket, white T-shirt and baggy blue jeans. In one attack a mother was raped in front of her two-year-old child.



Prison staff to meet

The Prison Officers' Association is to meet on September 2 to decide the union's policy towards government plans to privatise Strangeways jail in Manchester. Four hundred delegates will attend the one-day conference at TUC headquarters in London to discuss whether the union should back plans by the prison service management to compete with the private sector in tendering to run the jail. The association's national executive has twice postponed taking a decision on a policy that has divided the union. Several senior members of the executive recognise the danger the union faces if it fails to back an in-house bid, but others are resisting the move strongly. If the union stands aside at Strangeways, it risks the loss of hundreds of jobs should the contract be awarded to a private company.

Orkney report pledge

The report and recommendations of the judicial enquiry into the seizure of children on Orkney by social workers last year will be published after the parliamentary recess, the Scottish Office said yesterday. Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, the Scottish minister of state, has written to Jim Wallace, Liberal Democrat MP for Orkney and Shetland, emphasising that there was no question of the report not being made public. Mr Wallace had expressed fears earlier this month that the report would not be published.



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1501 1501

With-profits bond holders to be asked if they knew risks

By Sara McConnell

ABOUT 1,300 holders of with-profits insurance bonds from Equity & Law and London and Manchester Assurance will be receiving letters from the companies in the next few weeks asking them if they fully understood the risks of the policy they bought. In some cases, people could get their money back.

This follows a six-month investigation by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lutro) into the marketing of such bonds. This week it emerged that 11 other companies have also been asked to withdraw one or more items from their range of marketing material. The regulator was concerned that companies and their agents were misleading people into thinking that the bonds worked like building society accounts. In fact the bonds are insurance policies and if investors try to cash them early they will not get back all the money they put in. In the small print of the marketing brochure, companies also reserve the right to apply what they call a "market value adjuster" that allows them to reduce the payout if the stock market is not performing.

About £1 billion has so far been invested in such bonds. Part of the reason for their popularity is because salesmen earn a high commission for selling the policies. They would not get any commission for recommending that someone keep their money in the building society.

John Cummings, deputy managing director of London and Manchester Assurance, said that the company would be writing to 1,000 investors in two to three weeks' time. He said: "Lutro wanted more information on the market value adjuster as we had said that in certain circumstances we would apply the adjuster. It also asked for clarification on



Equity & Law
London and Manchester Group plc

comparing the policy with building society accounts. Customers could contact the company if they wanted more information. Mr Cummings said. The bonds had been sold by the company's own tied agents and salesmen.

Duncan Kerr, Equity & Law's chief secretary, said that Lutro had "taken exception to the style and format" of a booklet for the bonds that showed investors riding a fairground rollercoaster. The

Walker questioned way salesmen are paid

idea behind the illustration was that a with-profits bond could help to smooth out the peaks and troughs of the stockmarket. Mr Kerr said: "Lutro thought the presentation of the whole item detracted from the content." The 300 policyholders would be receiving a letter in the next few days, he said. He added that compensation for investors could not be ruled out but that it would take cases individually.

Julia Liesching, Lutro's chief policy officer, said that Lutro would check in Octo-

ber that its instructions had been carried out.

Yesterday's move against misleading insurance advertising for single premium insurance bonds shows how the industry is coming under increasing pressure to curb practices that cost policyholders millions of pounds a year (Lindsay Cook writes).

Also under scrutiny are the severe penalties faced by clients who surrender policies before maturity, and Lutro chief executive Kit Jellens is considering action against companies with high surrender records, including making them bear more of the cost of early surrenders.

The Office of Fair Trading, which has long campaigned for full disclosure of all charges before customers sign for policies, is now consulting the industry and consumer groups before recommending stiffer regulations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Interest parties have until September 4 to make their views known.

The National Consumer Council estimates that £200 million a year is lost through the early surrender of endowment mortgages and most insurance companies admit that less than half the policies they sell reach maturity.

This is largely because the main thrust is on selling 25-year endowments to young people who do not understand the losses they will incur if they cash in early. Even those who stay the course until the twenty-fourth year can lose thousands of pounds by cashing in a year early, forfeiting their terminal bonus.

"We found that endowment mortgages were being sold to those with the lowest level of financial sophistication on the recommendation of the building society or bank instead of repayment mortgages," said an NCC spokeswoman. "They are not necessarily the best deal for people struggling to buy properties."

St David Walker, when chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, suggested that the industry should look again at the way it pays salesmen. If they were paid over the full term of the policy they might make sure they only sold policies that were likely to mature, he argued.



Unwelcome whelk: Becky Oakley from the Sea Life Centre in Portsmouth with one of the Japanese invaders

Giant whelks threaten British oysters

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

AN invasion of giant Japanese whelks is threatening to wreck British oyster and mussel beds. The predatory whelks, up to ten times the size of the larger British whelks, have been found on the North Sea bed, south of Dogger Bank, about 20 miles out. Marine

scientists fear that fishermen could inadvertently bring them in to inshore waters.

The Thomas rapa whelks (*Rapana venosa*) have already destroyed commercial shellfish populations in the Black Sea, where the species was accidentally introduced from Japan. The whelks were found in a colony by crab fishermen. They may have been brought as eggs on the

hull of a ship from the Black Sea. David Caswell, from Grimsby, pulled up nearly 60 in a single lobster pot and gave one to the Sea Life Centre, an aquarium in his home town of Portsmouth.

Jan Light, of the Conchological Society of Britain and Ireland, said: "They had never been seen in British waters before. They breed like wild-fire and feed voraciously on

other shellfish." David Heppell, curator of molluscs at the Royal Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, said: "Fishermen must be alerted because if they throw them overboard within a mile of the shore it could have dire consequences for inshore shellfisheries."

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food said it was investigating.

Farmers unite to repel hippies

Jalopies are no match for the Bodmin Moor tractors, writes Lin Jenkins

WITH the quiet conspiracy of the smugglers of Daphne Du Maurier's *Jamaica Inn*, a group of Cornish farmers have united to repel "New Age" travellers intent on holding a festival on Bodmin Moor over the bank holiday weekend.

The residents of 22 scattered farms have mounted 24-hour patrols to prevent a repeat of last year's White Goddess festival, when more than 5,000 travellers invaded Davidstow Moor for two weeks. Nearly 50 sheep were killed by dogs and the land was left in such a state that the local environmental health department deemed it too contaminated for use.

The main influx of travellers is expected to begin today and the locals, most of whom have commoners' rights on the privately owned moor, have already seen off several vans and cars have been towed back on to the public highway after early arrivals declined to move voluntarily.

Julie Dowton, secretary of the Davidstow Commoners' Association, said: "We have taken legal advice and we are entitled to remove trespassers. If they fail to comply with our request to leave, then we can use reasonable and minimal force." Pulling vehicles off the moor by tractor complied with the law. "We are absolutely determined there will be no festival. Last year was a nightmare."

Devon and Cornwall police have been following the movement of travellers for some weeks, after being taken by surprise last year when the usually small festival ballooned. All leave has been cancelled from today and there are contingency plans to close roads.

Thousands of travellers are now scattered over southern England after Sussex police foiled attempts to hold a festival at Cissbury Ring, near Worthing, last week.

Source: Office of Fair Trading

Years:	Total premiums paid	Surrender values for term of 25 years	10 years
1	1,200	0	100
2	2,400	0	1,300
3	3,600	700	2,600
4	4,800	1,800	4,000
5	5,000	3,200	5,000

Drab backdrop for Britain's best pub

Hard work, good food and superb beer brought Camra's top award to Wolverhampton. Craig Seton writes

A DINGY Wolverhampton back street lined with old factory buildings and overlooked by a viaduct carrying a main railway line is the unimpressive venue of the best pub in Britain, acclaimed today by the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra).

A few years ago the Great Western in Sun Street was considered to be on its last legs. Built in the 1850s and located in a rundown industrial area near Wolverhampton town centre it was out of place and out of time five years ago when Holders, a small Black Country brewery, took it over from one of the country's largest brewing companies.

Now barristers and judges from the nearby Wolverhampton Crown Court, office staff and foundry workers are among loyal customers served by Keith and Jose Walker, both 53, the tenants.

The Great Western is the first public house in the West Midlands to win Camra's pub of the year award and it is praised for its outstanding beer, superb food and friendly bar staff. It serves four real ales and no item on its straightforward food menu costs more than £2.50. Homemade steak and kidney pie, giant hot pork and beef cobs and a local speciality, a gruel of grey mushy peas and bacon, costing only 70p, are all a full meal. Furnishings are simple, the walls are lined with railway memorabilia and there is no juke box.

Keith Walker served his lunchtime customers yesterday wearing a crisp white shirt and tie while his wife was in charge of kitchen staff, including her daughter and sister. It is their third tenancy and when they took it over they would get up at 5.30am to prepare cheap but comprehensive breakfasts to put it on the map.

Mrs Walker said: "It was a down-and-out pub when we took it over, a real dive, but it was a challenge. I think we give our customers good value for money. They want good food and beer. It just took off."

Mr Walker said that because of its location, the pub had no natural clientele and they had to attract customers by word of mouth. The Black Country was a gritty industrial area and people did not want anything too fancy.

David Fryer, an official of Camra's West Midlands branch, said: "This just shows what can be done with a little hard work, application, excellent beer, good food and good management. It is a magnificent pub."

Courses at home for ex-miners

By Matthew D'Ancona, Education Correspondent

ONCE the heart of Welsh mining and union militancy, the valleys of South Wales will become an impromptu seat of learning next year under plans to set up a community university to enable jobless miners to take degree courses while living at home.

University College, Swansea, plans to offer 40 places to students in degree subjects such as community development, community enterprise, modern Welsh and European studies, backed up by bursary funds. A £20,000 grant from the Universities Funding Council will allow the new Community University for the Valleys, modelled on American community colleges, to provide lectures, libraries and crèche facilities close to the homes of the long-term unemployed.

British Coal last week announced the closure of two pits and the loss of nearly 500 jobs in the South Wales' mining. Leaving only one pit employing 370 men in an area that once gave work to more than 100,000. Dons at Swansea hope the new initiative will be a lifeline to enterprise in deprived communities.

Hywel Francis, director of adult continuing education at Swansea, said that the new community university would be a catalyst for similar schemes in disadvantaged areas. People who were unemployed or had domestic responsibilities could pursue part-time or full-time courses.

David Thomas, a retired miner who was badly hurt in an underground accident in 1985, said he would now be able to work from home and study a couple of times a week in a subject like politics or history.

Top schools A-level league in The Times

THE first ranking of A-level results to compare state and independent schools will appear in *The Times* on Saturday. At least 250 leading schools will be named in a special feature analysing the performance of the two sectors.

This year's improved performance at A-level has produced marked fluctuations in the positions of state schools at the top of the league tables. Independent schools are expected to show similar movement.

The feature will chart the leading independent schools' results over the past five years. The result will be the most comprehensive picture yet of their A-level performance, a yardstick against which others can be judged.

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Architect of education reforms warns against 'untrustworthy' results for science pupils

Ignore curriculum tests, parents told

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE national curriculum is failing children, making impossible demands on teachers and misleading parents, the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science was told yesterday.

Paul Black, professor of science education at King's College London, and one of the architects of the government's educational reforms, said that teachers, pupils and parents would be well advised to ignore the results of science attainment tests for 14-year-olds under the national curriculum because they were bound to be untrustworthy.

Professor Jim Campbell, of Warwick University, said that the introduction of the national curriculum into primary schools had left teachers on a treadmill, working harder and achieving less.

Class teachers had to become "the primary school equivalent of Einstein, Madame Curie and Linford Christie all rolled into one" in

BRITISH
ASSOCIATION
Southampton

order to satisfy the demands of the national curriculum. The intellectual demands made of teachers could be realised "only by renaissance men and women", of whom there were few in the primary teaching force, he said.

Professor Black, who chaired the committee in 1988 that recommended how children should be tested, said that the government had abandoned most of the principles embodied in his report. These changes had not been grounded in evidence, but based on prejudice and "are set fair to do serious harm to children's education".

The kind of standardised tests now envisaged were similar to those that had been used for many years in the United States, but which were now being abandoned there. Far from fitting naturally into classroom practice, they en-

couraged teachers to drill pupils to pass the tests.

The results could not possibly be reliable, because the tests would be too short. At 14, for example, pupils will face a three-hour test in science to see if they meet three "attainment targets". That meant one hour per target.

"From all the evidence that I know, the result of one hour of testing on science performance will be untrustworthy," he said. "To cover the ground, the test will be bound to adopt those narrow forms of test items which the USA authorities are abandoning after decades of experience with them. Teachers, pupils and parents would be well advised to ignore the results."

The Education Reform Act had become an instrument for direct government control in which the opinions of ministers were insulated from professional opinion and expertise, Professor Black said. "As an academic researcher who saw the act as a force for good, and who has given much of his time to trying to help its development, I am deeply disappointed and fearful at the outcome."

Professor Campbell said that the national curriculum, a dream at conception, had turned into a nightmare at delivery. Conscientious teachers committed to reform were having to work unreasonably long hours, averaging about 54 a week, to keep up.

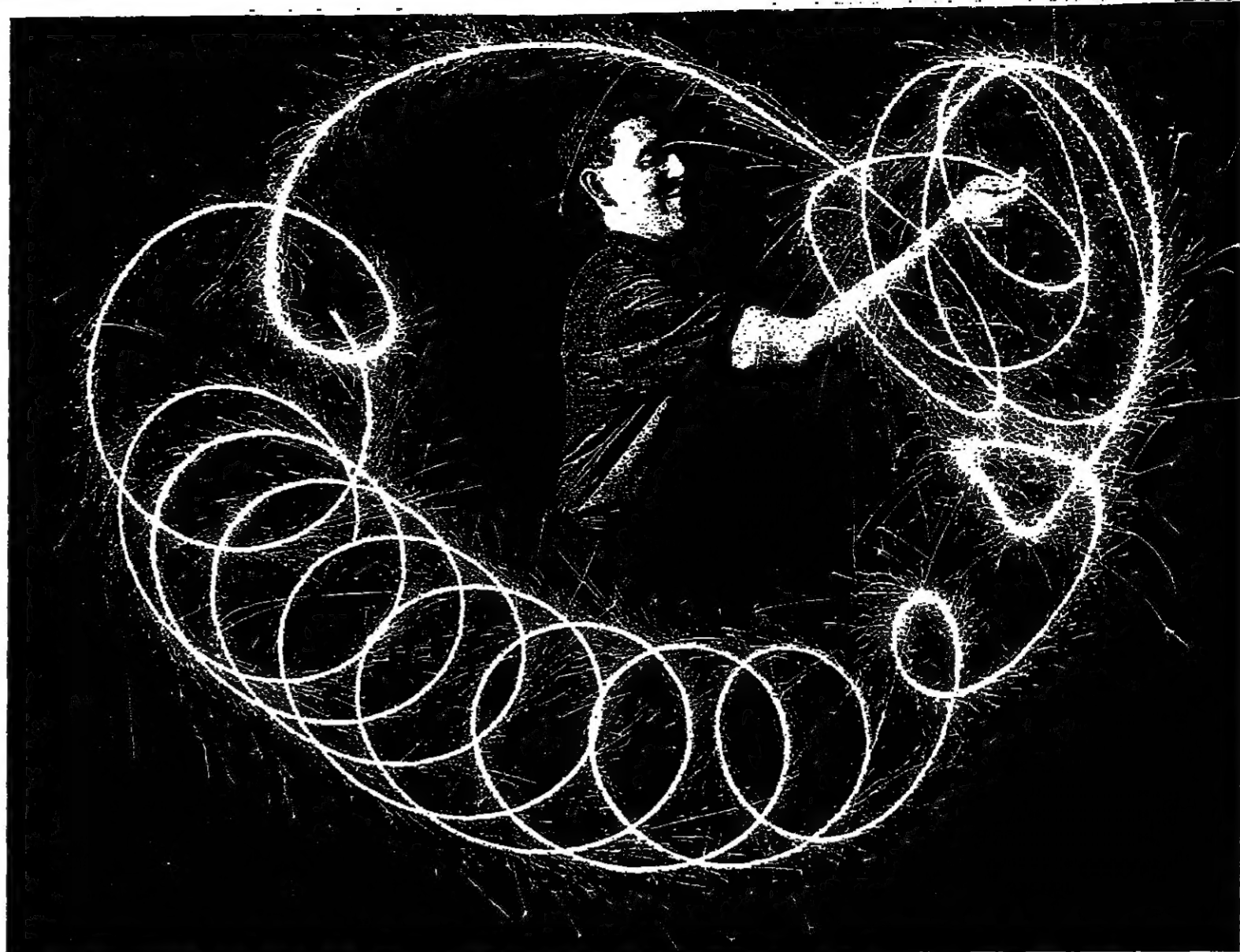
Only a third of the time was spent teaching, the rest in preparation, marking, meetings, in-service training and other professional development, he said.

This "enervating treadmill" left the teachers working hard, but getting little satisfaction. "I notice that I never complete what I hope to achieve," one teacher told him, summarising the feelings of many.

Professor Campbell suggested that the demands of the national curriculum might be modified to make them more realistic without subjecting teachers to a continuation of "unmanageable workloads and a profound sense of failure". In many cases, such changes would need more money, to improve staffing levels and the teaching materials available in schools.

Dr Martin's leading critic, Terence Kealey of Cambridge University, said that a relative decline merely meant that more countries were now working at science, which should be welcomed. "In the nineteenth century only three countries had any real science - Britain, France and Germany. British science was then probably a third of world science. Now it is a tenth, but that is a result of many other countries, including the US and Japan, joining in," he said.

"Britain still does ten per cent of world science with only one per cent of the world's population and so long as science continues to grow absolutely, relative decline is inevitable and even desirable." Dr Kealey then suggested that government support for science should be reduced. Since it is an article of faith at



Shining example: Andy Gosse, from the British Gas research station at Solihull, West Midlands, waves a sparkler in front of delegates at the British Association for the Advancement of Science meeting in Southampton yesterday. He and his colleague David McHugh gave an hour-long lecture that featured 50 experiments, including explosions, all designed to emphasise safety and the science of combustion

Scientists lose fight against malaria

WITHIN five years it may be impossible to protect travellers to some parts of the world against malaria (Nigel Hawkes writes). The growth of drug resistance is progressive and frightening, and quinine is losing its effectiveness, the meeting was told.

Studies by Nicholas White and colleagues at the faculty of tropical medicine at Mahidol University in Thailand have shown a steady loss of drug effectiveness in malaria patients. "We're not keeping pace in terms of new drugs," said Adrian Hill, of the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. "Recently introduced drugs such as Mefloquine are losing effectiveness, and there are relatively few new drugs in development."

Already malaria is causing between one and two million deaths a year, almost entirely in developing countries. The danger, said Dr Hill, was that the declining effectiveness of drugs would increase deaths to ten million a year.

Deaths in Britain are rare, but not unknown: recently Richard Hughes, brother of the MP Simon Hughes, died after contracting malaria on his honeymoon in Kenya.

The riskiest areas for travellers are the relatively prosperous parts of the developing world, including Thailand and Kenya, where drugs have been widely used, allowing resistance to develop. Failure to complete a course of anti-malaria tablets, which is common, encourages resistance

because it allows the infective agent to survive and co-exist with low levels of the drug. Better use of drugs could slow the development of resistance, Dr Hill said.

He reported on efforts to develop a vaccine against malaria by looking for the genes that control the immune response to the disease. "We have identified a probable mechanism for the immune response gene, which should lead us to one or two antigens which might then be candidates for a malaria vaccine," he said. "We should have some cocktail of proteins in five years that should give useful protection against the disease."

Dr Bridget Ogilvie, director of the Wellcome Trust,

warned that in spite of the threat posed by malaria, developing a vaccine might not attract drug companies because the profits would not be large. "There used to be many companies producing vaccines, now there are very few," she said. "They are expensive to develop and to maintain, and the risks are high. Industry is rather reluctant to enter into it."

The most widely used vaccine, developed in Colombia, has been tested on tens of thousands of people in Latin America, with a claimed effectiveness of 70 per cent. "So far, these trials have not been published in full," Dr Hill said. "We need more testing to know if this vaccine is really effective."

No change in lot of the elderly

THE notion that today's elderly are more lonely and isolated from their children than in the past was dismissed yesterday as a myth.

Richard Wall, a researcher at Cambridge University who has based his study on records dating back to 1692, told the association that the belief that the elderly were cared for in the past by complex family units was "an idealised misrepresentation".

Institutions for the elderly were common 300 years ago, and were normal for men and women over 75 years old. The number of children living close enough to have regular contact with their elderly parents had not altered since the late eighteenth century, he said.

Differences in living arrangements today could be explained more by changes in the birth rate, the availability of small housing units and standards of living than by changes in family values, said Mr Wall, acting director of the Economic and Social Research Council's group for history of population and social sciences. Mr Wall found that the number of over-75s in institutions differed little over the centuries. The one change in modern times was that more women were in institutions, because of their higher life expectancy.

Researchers kill myth of unchanging countryside

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

THE popular romantic image of a bygone rural age in which villagers lived in self-contained isolation untouched by events outside their parish is challenged in a study of three English villages published yesterday.

Migrations into villages were commonplace and could have a significant impact on a community's life, Andrew Hinde, a researcher in the social statistics department at Southampton University, told association members that vil-

lagers welcomed the newcomers. "The people who moved in... were not marginal to the social and economic life of these villages, playing walk-on parts. They were often central to the drama," he said.

The research, based on a detailed analysis of census returns and registers of births, deaths and marriages between 1841 and 1891, also challenges the view that in the increasingly industrialised late nineteenth century, the more able villagers migrated to the towns, leaving the countryside a backwater.

The study was based on Durling near Southampton,

Ashley near Winchester, and Somborne and Stratfield Turgis, northeast of Basingstoke. The researchers believe they are typical of English villages of the time.

A study of Durling's population in 1891 found that 192 people were born in the parish but 262 were born outside, including several from the Midlands. A retired doctor from Kent and a farmer and his family from Cornwall. Similar patterns were found in the other two Hampshire villages.

To assess whether this migration had been important for village life, the re-

searchers studied records that showed the jobs of the newcomers and whether they were permanent residents or just seasonal workers.

Many new arrivals were found to have been central to the community's life. For example, in Ashley in 1861, four farmers had been born in Dorset, Norfolk, Devon and Scotland. In Stratfield Turgis in 1861, the hotel keeper was from Leicester and the curate came from Tottenham, north London.

The villages also had a rapid turnover of residents. In Durling, among a population of 483, more than 230 people

moved away between 1871 and 1881 but nearly 200 moved in. Many migrants were women leaving their parish to marry or to take up servants' jobs.

A study of the Houghton family, an important name in Durling since at least 1632, found that in 1891 12 married men of that name were living in the village, 11 of them born in the parish. All but one of these men had wives who had been born elsewhere, from surrounding villages such as Ichen Stoke and Upton but also from Winchester and South Australia.

Ministers urged to call halt to urban build-up in South

UNSPOILED countryside all over southeast England will disappear under bricks and mortar unless present accepted levels of housing development are reduced, the Council for the Protection of Rural England says in a leaflet published today.

The housing slump should be no cause for complacency, Tony Burton, the council's senior planner, said yesterday. The long-term threat of urbanisation was as great as ever.

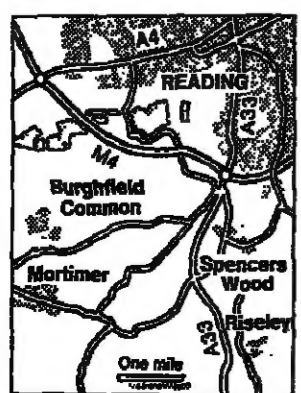
Last month, Michael Howard, the environment secretary, had indicated that the government expected 855,000 new houses to be built in the South-East between 1991 and 2006. That was based on an assumption of 57,000 completions a year, the same rate agreed in 1989, in spite of important changes in planning and environmental policies in the meantime.

"The future of hundreds of sites around towns and villages in the South-East hangs in the balance," Mr Burton said. "Reducing levels of housing development to that which the environment of the South-East can tolerate is one of the most important steps which the government could take on the road to environmentally sustainable development." The leaflet observes that housebuilding is responsible

John Young
reports on the
fight to keep
builders from the
South-East

for the loss of more of the South-East's countryside than any other form of built development. More than half the farmland lost to urban development goes under new houses.

Reducing the level of housing development does not mean ignoring the homeless, or preventing affordable houses from being built, the leaflet says. But history has shown that building houses does not in itself solve the



problems. Record levels of housebuilding in the 1980s coincided with record increases in homelessness and a chronic shortage of affordable housing.

New development should be concentrated on making the best use of the huge tracts of wasteland in towns and cities, and on revitalising the thousands of vacant unfit houses. London alone has more than 1,140 hectares (nearly 3,000 acres) of urban dereliction, an area which has increased by more than 300 per cent since 1974. Outside London there are a further 700 hectares of derelict land in other towns and cities in the South-East.

"It is frequently argued that such a small percentage of the countryside will disappear under housing development in the next ten years that conservationists' worries are a storm in a teacup," the leaflet says. But statistics tell only part of the story.

The predicted loss of 1.27 per cent of the total land to urban development meant a 10 per cent increase in the urban area outside London, and the loss of more than 34,000 hectares of rural land. That is equivalent to losing an area of countryside almost the size of the Isle of Wight in 20 years. The leaflet pinpoints as



Safe for the moment: Beech Hill, in the path of the Great Lea project

development "hot spots": Carterton, Oxfordshire; Reading, Berkshire; Princes Risborough, Buckinghamshire; Micheldever, Hampshire; Bedford; Brighton; Horley, Surrey; Stevenage; Hertfordshire; the Medway Gap in Kent; and Chesham, Essex.

Until now the M4 motorway sweeping south of Reading has provided an accepted barrier against further urban sprawl. To the north the spread of the housing estates surrounding one of Britain's most successful boom towns has appeared to be almost unstoppable.

On the southern side the scene changes abruptly. Barely 40 miles from the centre of London narrow lanes meander through idyllic countryside

hamlets too small to merit more than a passing glance. The parkland of Stratfield Saye, home of the Duke of Wellington, is a reminder of a less frenetic age.

But the peaceful acres to the west of the village of Spencers Wood, interrupted only by the A33 dual carriageway between Reading and Basingstoke, have for many years been coveted by would-be developers.

In 1988 plans by the Speyhawk property group for a de facto new town on 300 acres adjoining Spencers Wood, three miles south of Reading, were included in the Berkshire structure plan at the insistence of Nicholas Ridley, then environment secretary, but were deleted under pressure from environmental bod-

ies. The scheme, to be known as Great Lea, would have comprised up to 7,000 new homes, a shopping centre and a new railway station.

The scheme was opposed by Michael Heseltine, Mr Ridley's predecessor and later successor at the department, who has consistently argued against large-scale development in the South-East would be best accommodated by his favoured east London "corridor" which runs along both banks of the Thames estuary.

An appeal by Speyhawk against the refusal of planning permission was rejected after a public enquiry in 1989. That is unlikely to be the end of the story.

Russian academics do it the hard way

By KERRY GILL

ANYONE who suspects that academics are a soft lot unused to the vicissitudes of modern life should be introduced to Viktor Anisimov, deputy head of the St Petersburg Institute of Mechanics, and his six weather-beaten colleagues.

The seven scientists had been invited to exchange expertise in oil industry technology and research with their counterparts at the new Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen. The problem was that the Russians had no hard currency with which to pay the £350 fares from St Petersburg to Aberdeen.

Mr Anisimov and his friends borrowed a 30ft yacht and, despite storms and a lack of modern navigational equipment, completed the 19-day voyage from the gulf of Finland to Aberdeen harbour.

The crew lived on coffee, biscuits, oatmeal and sardines as bad weather forced them to take a 1,000-mile zig-zag course through the Baltic and the North Sea. Accommodation aboard the yacht, named *Success*, was so cramped that at least two were forced to remain on deck whatever the weather. They stopped twice, at Konigsberg and Copenhagen. Yesterday Mr Anisimov and

his crew were preparing for the return voyage to St Petersburg. He said: "This skill has helped us at a time when air travel is difficult to arrange and expensive. It was very stormy all the time in the Baltic and none of our navigational aids worked."

"We had to rely on a compass and a lot of luck to get here." Luckily all are experienced sailors and Mr Anisimov is a member of the Russian naval reserve. The Russians were spared the red-tape nightmare of trying to get exit visas. By using seamen's passports they were allowed a five-day stay in Britain.

Their visit was the result of a meeting between four of the Russians and scientists at the university. As crew members of the yacht *Polstar* during last year's tall ships race they took the opportunity to call at the university to discuss future exchange visits and possible joint research projects. This summer two staff from the university paid the first official visit to the St Petersburg Institute and invited the Russian delegation back.

A university spokesman said: "We were expecting a call from the airport to say they had arrived. We were surprised to hear that instead they had sailed into Aberdeen."

سكناء في القرية

British box office boom

Arts festivals join the ranks of big business

By Simon Tait
Arts Correspondent

BRITAIN is becoming one great island arts festival, with 557 annual events lasting from two days to several weeks each, the Policy Studies Institute says in a report published today.

In 1991 festivals sold 4.2 million tickets worth £17.6 million, 41 per cent of the income from the events. More than half the festivals have been founded since 1980, often as a means of boosting local economies by attracting tourists and encouraging urban renewal.

"Although many are small-scale, taken together arts festivals are big business," the report says. Last year festivals received an estimated £5.8 million in sponsorship, while £7 million came from local authorities.

Festival income ranges from £115 to more than £5.5 million, with an average of £22,000, while a third have an income of less than £10,000. The biggest box office income draws are the Edinburgh International Festival and Glyndebourne Festival Opera, accounting together for more than 30 per cent of all festival box office receipts. Five festivals take more than 50 per cent of all receipts.

Apart from their proliferation, the most obvious feature of arts festivals is diversity in size, content and professional input. The report says that 62 per cent of arts festivals are professionally managed.

"Arts festivals are very diverse in their size and subject matter, but the one thing they have in common is the celebratory aspect," Heather Rolfe, the author of the report, said.

Though audiences are increasing, the economics of running an arts festival are becoming more difficult. The income of British festivals is an

Tickets sold

Edinburgh Fringe	520,000
BBC Promenade	250,000
Concerts	167,000
Edinburgh Festival	164,000
Wales National Eisteddfod	130,000
Brighton Festival	117,000
Llangollen Eisteddfod	117,000

estimated £40.6 million a year, but their organisers spend £40.9 million on them. More than half had a deficit last year, and 13 per cent have an accumulated deficit.

The report says organisers were optimistic because of the size of audiences and the willingness of volunteers, but pessimistic because of lack of financial support by the government or the uncertainty of local authority funding.

Dr Rolfe said: "Organisers are saying that sources of funding are changing towards business sponsorship, but as the recession bites deeper that money is becoming harder to find." The amateur organisers who run 38 per cent of festivals may lack experience in treading the business sponsorship they need.

Festivals are popular with the media: 39 per cent of them had radio and television coverage last year. They have also been an important conduit for new works, with 34 per cent of

them commissioning artists, but that may be changing with a reduction in commissions because of reduced funding.

"Some festival organisers believe that tough competition for funding discourages festivals from including innovative work and makes festivals programmes increasingly predictable and unadventurous," the report says.

The report is published at the height of the festival season, and almost a third of organisers plan changes, often to include more non-musical events and to appeal to younger people. Others are reconsidering dates and duration.

Edinburgh might split its international fringe, jazz, film, television and books festivals, which are concurrent, to spread them over the year, and draw the international festival out to cover five weeks instead of three.

Arts Festivals in The UK, by Heather Rolfe, is published by the Policy Studies Institute at £14.95.

Leading article, page 11



Getting in on the act: Prince Edward rehearsing yesterday with the Haddo Players for the company's production of *Trelawny of the Wells* at Haddo House, Grampian

Battle theme takes BBC2 into autumn

By Melinda Wittstock, Media Correspondent

CONFLICT in the twentieth century will be the theme of *War and Peace*, a month-long series of documentaries, classic programmes and feature films that forms part of the £34 million autumn schedule announced yesterday by BBC2.

The series, which ends on Remembrance Day on November 8, will include a powerful reflection on warfare by the poet Tony Harrison. Mr Harrison has collaborated with Peter Symes to make *Gaze of the Gorgon*, in which the creature of legend that turned men to stone becomes a metaphor for the twentieth century, posing the question of what society can do to resist its petrifying gaze.

Renouance War looks at the history of conscientious objection in Britain during both world wars, while *Battle Cries* investigates how soldiers behave in combat. *Splendid Hearts* attempts to reclaim the history of the names on war memorials.

BBC2's Saturday night drama series *Performance* returns with Sir Alec Guinness and Jeremy Irons in *Tales from Hollywood*, written by Christopher Hampton. Set in

1940s Hollywood and seen through the eyes of Thomas Mann, his brother Heinrich, Bertolt Brecht and Odon von Horvath, the play examines the bizarre cultural conflicts of wartime Hollywood.

Alan Yentob, controller of BBC2, has promised "a delicious deviant brew of demonology" in *Witchcraft*, about a screenwriter who chooses seventeenth-century witchcraft as the subject of her latest film script. As filming begins the boundaries of fiction and reality blur. Jennifer Saunders writes and stars in a new comedy series with Joanna Lumley, *Absolutely Fabulous*, which revolves around a fashion PR boss and her best friend.

The Prince of Wales will join Sir Roy Strong on a guided tour in *Royal Gardens*, while Sir John Harvey Jones, the former ICI chairman, will return with a second series of *Troubleshooter*.

Music and arts documentaries include a look back at Kurt Weill's Broadway career, a portrait of Rachmaninov in exile, and profiles of the children's writer Enid Blyton and the crime writer P.D. James.

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New clue in kidnap search

The kidnapper of a bank manager's wife is believed to be responsible for an extortion incident at a second bank, police revealed yesterday. Cheshire detectives hunting the bogus policeman who kidnapped Elizabeth Kerr for a £40,000 ransom on August 14 say they have established a firm link with an extortion attempt in the West Midlands a week earlier.

That incident, at a NatWest bank in Solihull on August 7, also featured a demand for money but did not involve a kidnap, police said.

Mrs Kerr, 37, was taken from her home in Holmes Chapel, Cheshire, and kept in the boot of a car while her husband, manager of Barclays in Sale, Greater Manchester, collected and handed over the ransom.

Fire kills girl

Firemen believe a candle used in the bedroom of a three-year-old girl who hated sleeping in the dark might have caused her death when it set fire to her bedroom. Natalie Godfrey's five-year-old sister Lucy was also badly burnt in the blaze, which broke out after the electricity meter was turned off at their house in Great Chesterford, Essex.

Theft charge

A former Bank of England worker accused of stealing more than £150,000 from its incineration depot was sent for trial at Southwark Crown Court. Kevin Winwright, of Chelmsford, Essex, was committed on bail by Bow Street magistrates.

Jury mix-up

A man was about to take his seat on an Old Bailey jury when staff discovered that by coincidence the jury was to hear a burglary charge against his son. The jury panel was discharged and the case transferred to another court.

Voies counted

Scientists have begun a census of the vole population on Skomer island off the Pembrokeshire coast. Studies are carried out every decade.

Death in cell

Philip Goulding, 30, accused of murdering his lover at their Stranraer home, was found dead, hanging in his cell at Dumfries prison.

£400,000 ferry error leaves Scots isle at sea

By KERRY GILL

THE future of Britain's most remote island community has been thrown into doubt because of a blunder that has left the inhabitants without their own island-based ferry service.

People living on Foula, off the west coast of Shetland, lost their own ferry three years ago when Shetland council promised them a new boat that would be berthed at a £1 million purpose-built pier on the island. Since then they have made do sharing a ferry with the island of Papa Stour to the north.

No one should have been happier than the 42 islanders when they heard that their new vessel, *Westering Homewards*, was about to arrive in Shetland. But the £400,000 ferry had, hardly turned a screw before it was found to be unsuitable for the storm-wracked north Atlantic.

Yesterday, councillors agreed that a ferry should be based at Foula but said the problem was finding a suitable one. They were told that legal action by the council had not been ruled out, though Edward Thomas, the council convenor, refused to say who such action could be taken against. Captain George Sutherland, director of marine services, is to prepare a report on the matter.

The Foula islanders, meanwhile, are enraged. "The old island-based ferry was often our only link with the outside world," said Isobel Holbourn, the islanders' spokeswoman. "You can imagine how we felt when we heard that the *Westering Homewards* would be useless in these waters."

Without a Foula-based boat, mail services have become erratic, livestock has missed market and grocery supplies have been cut.



Iraqis move warplanes north of 32nd parallel

FROM JAMIE DEITMER IN WASHINGTON AND CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN NICOSIA

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein, despite issuing blood-curdling statements on Monday threatening to resist any plan to impose a "no-fly" zone in southern Iraq, has started to move combat aircraft to bases north of the 32nd parallel and out of harm's way.

According to American intelligence reports, the redeployment began at the weekend as Baghdad was declaring its intention to respond militarily to the introduction by America, Britain and France of an air exclusion zone in the South. More than 30 warplanes have been moved north, leaving only about ten inside the prohibited area.

As the Pentagon analysed

the latest intelligence assessments of Iraqi military dispositions in and around the southern marshlands, home to the Shia Muslim rebellion against Saddam's regime, the State Department cautioned Iran not to take advantage of the Western allies' plan.

During the Gulf war, America sent frequent messages to Tehran aimed at reassuring Iran that Washington posed no military threat. No reply has been received yet from President Rafsanjani's government, which has backed with supplies some Shia factions in southern Iraq. Several Arab governments have expressed disquiet over the Western air prohibition plan on the grounds that it risks encouraging the break-up of Iraq and will result in the strengthening of Iran in the region.

The message to Iran was part of Washington's diplomatic effort to calm regional fears. On Monday, Gulf Arab diplomats in Kuwait claimed that an announcement of the "no-fly" zone had been delayed because Arab governments had asked the Western allies to re-think their plan. Bush administration officials denied there had been any slip in the timetable for the announcement agreed between Washington, London and Paris.

Yesterday, Martin Fitzwater, the White House press secretary, said a statement from President Bush on the plan would be made in the next few days. On Sunday, Mr Fitzwater predicted that the ban would be imposed yesterday, but he did say it might take a few days longer.

The redeployment of Iraqi warplanes over the weekend coincided with an increase in attacks by Iraqi troops and helicopters on Shia positions according to the American intelligence reports. Leading exiled Iraqi opposition sources also said yesterday that Iraqi air and heavy artillery attacks were continuing on the Shias in the southern marshes.

The latest reports from inside the marshlands were circulated by Saad Jabr, the son of a former prime minister. They named three villages in the Amara area, al-Misrah, al-Nakara and al-Mahalla, which were "heavily bombed" causing many casualties and forcing their inhabitants to flee into the marshes. The area is just below the 32nd parallel.

The reports, which have not been confirmed, also name three villages in the Nasiriyah district, al-Jarrah, al-Hammar and al-Fubood, which they said were the target of renewed artillery attack.



Hitting the hungry, starving Somali children at a feeding centre near the town of Baidoa, who became frightened when they learnt there would not be enough food to go around, being beaten with sticks to keep them under control. It was disclosed yesterday that gunmen

seized and killed 11 Somali employees of the Red Cross last week (Our Foreign Staff writes). The men were being taken from Kismayu, whose people are of a different clan from the employees, to a safer area. The US military airlift of food into Somalia is expected to begin on

Friday but UN aid officials still could not say yesterday where the planes would be heading and how aid would be distributed. The C131 Hercules aircraft can only fly to a few airports in the country. Four are in the ports of Mogadishu and Kismayu where food is being

brought in by ship. The others are in the worst-hit areas, at Hodder, Baidoa, Baidoa and Belet Hacen. Meanwhile, an official of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees said yesterday that Sudanese rebels had blocked UN attempts to visit 4,000 refugees taken to southern

Sudan from a camp on the Kenyan border. The agency wanted to find out if the refugees had been abducted or left the camp willingly. Khartoum claims they were kidnapped to swell the ranks of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army.

Kabul hunt for truce begins

By Our Foreign Staff

TWO of the most senior members of Afghanistan's ruling leadership council said yesterday that they would leave Pakistan for Kabul to negotiate a ceasefire between dissident Mujahidin guerrillas and the Afghan president.

Vice-President Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi and Yunus Khalis, leader of a splinter faction of the Hezb-i-Islami party, plan to go to Kabul or its surrounding province today, officials said.

"We want a complete ceasefire and reconciliation between them to establish an Islamic government," the Afghan Islamic Press quoted Mr Khalis as saying. Mr Khalis and the more moderate Mr Muhammadi are members of the leadership council, an uneasy coalition of at least ten Mujahidin parties set up when the Mujahidin took power from the communist government in Kabul.

There was heavy rocket and artillery fire in Kabul yesterday as the renegade Hezb-i-Islami and forces loyal to the Mujahidin Islamic government launched offensives against each other's positions.

The two veteran Mujahidin leaders had received acceptance to a letter sent to President Burhanuddin Rabbani of Afghanistan and to the fundamentalist Hezb leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, also a member of the leadership council who is based south of the city, the official said. "We received a positive reply from every side," the Afghan Islamic Press quoted Mr Khalis as saying.

In Brussels, the medical relief organisation Médecins sans Frontières said yesterday that about 200,000 civilians have fled the fighting in Kabul and 50,000 of them have to survive in very bad conditions. It added that the refugees have settled in makeshift camps along the road to the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, northwest of Kabul.

Israel hints at concession to Syria on Golan Heights

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL hinted yesterday that it was ready to make some territorial concessions on the strategic Golan Heights captured from Syria 25 years ago.

In an interview with Israel Radio, Shimon Peres, the foreign minister, confirmed that negotiations at the peace talks in Washington would be working on the basis of UN Resolution 242, which calls for withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories captured in the 1967 six-day war.

Asked whether Israel would tell Syria it was ready to withdraw from the plateau, Mr Peres replied: "Israel is saying this way it decided to say this, namely, using the words of resolutions 242 and 338... Israel declares that resolution 242 applies to all fronts."

His comments, although deliberately vague, nevertheless were a radical departure from the previous Likud-led government of Yitzhak Shamir, which insisted that the Jewish state had already met the terms of the resolution by returning the Sinai peninsula to Egypt under the Camp David accords. It resolutely refused to contemplate a withdrawal from the Golan Heights or the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli foreign minister gave a warning, however, that at this stage Israel was discussing only "principles not maps" and he urged Damascus not to interpret his comments as meaning Israel was ready to relinquish the Golan, home to 15,000 Israeli settlers and 8,000 Syrian Arabs. "The Syrians should certainly soften



their position; otherwise, they will jeopardise the continuation of the peace negotiations," he said. "It is inconceivable that the Syrians will say that they will start the negotiations after we accept their positions on all issues."

A note of caution was also injected by Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, during a visit to the Palestinian town of Ramallah where he warned both Israelis and Palestinians not to expect any "miracles or short cuts". In particular, he said that in the talks between Israeli and Palestinian negotiators which recovered yesterday the two sides still had fundamental differences on the question of elections in the occupied territories. Israel envisages an administrative council, but Palestinians demand a legislative assembly.

However, he repeated his offer to allow the polls to be held within the coming months. "I would be prepared to propose a target date of April or May 1993 as a date for elections on condition that we determine the stages lead-

ing up to that. For example, by December 1 the electoral system, by January 1 or February 1 an agreement on what we hand over to the administrative council."

Not surprisingly, the comments of the two veteran Labour leaders drew immediate criticism from the opposition right-wing hawk who accused the government of offering the Arab side concessions with nothing in return. "The Israeli negotiators are competing to see who has more concessions in his sack," Ariel Sharon, the headline former housing minister, told the Knesset.

However, the right wing has failed so far to mobilise a credible campaign against the left-wing coalition, a fact highlighted on Monday when seven opposition Knesset members staged a demonstration march through Arab east Jerusalem, which attracted at most 40 of their supporters.

Right-wing fears were compounded by the announcement yesterday that two dovish Knesset members, Yael Dayan of Labour and Naomi Chazan of the leftist Meretz party, had held a secret meeting in The Hague last week with Nabil Shaath, a Palestinian official. Although such contacts are still banned under Israeli law, Yael Dayan, daughter of the late defence minister Moshe Dayan, said that she held the meeting to show that "there is a majority among the Israeli public and today also in the Knesset as well as among Palestinians and the PLO leadership which speaks the same language".

Akihito's visit to Peking rules right

FROM CATHERINE SAMPSON IN PEKING

ANOTHER old Asian enemy fell under Peking's sway yesterday when Japan announced that Emperor Akihito would be making a controversial visit to China in October. The announcement came just a day after China established diplomatic relations with South Korea and caused great satisfaction in Peking, which is eager for trade and investment and has pushed hard for the emperor to come.

The news caused nervousness in Tokyo, where right-wingers have opposed the visit, fearing the emperor may be humiliated by having to apologise for wartime atrocities. A member of Japan's right-wing nationalist fringe reacted soon after the announcement by setting a truck ablaze outside the official residence of Kiichi Miyazawa, the prime minister.

Japanese officials said that Peking had agreed that the emperor would not apologise, but nationalists did not seem reassured. A police spokesman said that a special security commission had been set up to protect public figures from possible terrorist attacks inspired by the news of the trip.

The visit will be the first by a Japanese monarch since the occupation of China, during which an estimated ten million people died. In one of the most infamous episodes of the war, Japanese soldiers murdered some 200,000 civilians in the city of Nanjing. At a camp in Heilongjiang, they carried out biological experiments on Chinese prisoners. Recent polls show that 70

per cent of Japanese are in favour of the visit, which will strengthen relations between the two most important economies in Asia. Right-wingers, however, fear that the emperor, as the son of the wartime Emperor Hirohito, who died in 1989, is vulnerable to Chinese demands for some expression of regret.

Chinese leaders will be sorely tempted to mention the war. It has been a constant source of tension, with Peking repeatedly charging that Japan glosses over its wartime crimes in school textbooks. But the Chinese leadership will not endanger the success of the visit and the economic benefits it could bring by raising such sensitive topics.

Peking relinquished its right to seek war indemnity from Japan in 1972, when relations were normalised. The agreement, however, did not apply to non-governmental organisations or individuals. Early this year, a Chinese intellectual, Tong Zeng, collected signatures from more than 10,000 Chinese war victims in order to press for compensation. Such individual campaigns are usually quashed quickly by Peking, but this one has until now been tolerated — a sign of tacit support.

But Peking is unlikely to allow such campaigners anywhere near the emperor, not least because in the past anti-Japanese feeling has fuelled mass student demonstrations. That is one aspect of Chinese life that the Communist leaders have no intention of showing off to the emperor.

Beirut asks Speaker not to quit

Beirut: The Lebanese government yesterday called on Hussein Khossini, the parliament Speaker, to withdraw his resignation which he submitted on Monday, alleging that the last phase of elections were rigged. He suffered an humiliating defeat from the Iranian-backed Hezbollah fundamentalist group in his Baalbeck constituency (All Jazeera wires).

The administration refused to yield to his demand to announce the polls null and void, preferring to wait until this morning, when the final results become available.

Jet talks held

Moscow: Qin Jiwei, the Chinese defence minister, visiting here, discussed with Pavel Grachev, his Russian counterpart, the possibility of Moscow selling fighter aircraft and other arms to China. They also discussed arms reduction and border security. (Reuters)

Nine killed

Johannesburg: A South African policeman under investigation for rape shot dead eight people, including five colleagues and a four-year-old girl, before shooting himself dead at a police station and prison complex at Groedemoed, Orange Free State.

Boat spotted

Singapore: A Taiwanese fishing boat, the Teru 51, fleeing the scene of its collision with a luxury liner on Sunday, was seen steaming north in the South China Sea, a Singapore official said. Malaysia has launched an air and sea search for the vessel. (Reuters)

Nuclear pact

Mexico City: The French ambassador to Mexico said that France has ratified a protocol of a 1967 treaty that would prohibit the construction or stockpiling of nuclear arms in its territories in Latin America. Britain has also signed the protocol. (Reuters)

Robot farmers

Tokyo: Japan plans to develop robot farm workers to take the place of people abandoning the land for jobs in cities, an official said. The farming population had dropped from six million households in 1960 to 3.78 million last year. (Reuters)

Bingo bullets

Sydney: Fierce competition has led Australian television stations to introduce bingo games during their news programmes. Prizes include cars, cash and holidays for the lucky winners whose game card numbers match those shown on screen. (Reuters)

Grass widow

Bulawayo: A 71-year-old grandmother was fined a token 40 Zimbabwe dollars (\$4) for smoking marijuana in her home. Anne Ngunzwa said a winddoctor recommended it in case her husband died.

Sect leader oversees arranged marriage of 60,000 Moonies

FROM REUTERS IN SEOUL

FORTY thousand people lined up with military precision and chanted wedding vows in unison at Seoul's Olympic stadium yesterday, many of them pledging to love and cherish a virtual stranger. Another 20,000 participated from afar, pledging their vows by satellite link-up across three continents in the largest mass wedding to date arranged by the Unification Church of the Rev Sun Myung Moon.

Clean-shaven, short-haired grooms sweated in the bright sunshine in identical dark suits and red ties. The women, faces hidden behind identical white veils, clutched identical bouquets to their identical white gowns. Thousands stood alone, holding a photograph of their betrothed, separated on their wedding day because of visa or financial problems. The couples are not permitted to consummate the marriage for 40 days.

Mr Moon, wearing a white and gold crown and draped in a flowing gold-edged white gown, presided at the wedding from a podium erected above the couples, who had come from 131 countries. "Do

women who are to consummate the ideal creation of God, pledge to become eternal husband and wife," he asked the crowd. "Yes," went up the roar in different tongues, making one of four responses needed for the four-part wedding vow. The couples, many weeping, exchanged identical wedding rings.

Mr Moon sprinkled water over the 20 couples closest to his podium. Sect officials moved through the crowd on the running track, sprinkling each pair from a small bowl. "Father," they cried as he swept out of the stadium and thousands of doves and multicoloured balloons were released into the sky. "Thank you, thank you," they screamed, their voices echoing off the packed stands. Friends and relatives packed the arena, responding quietly and obediently to instructions to rise and sit.

A few, like the popular Japanese actress, Junko Sakurada, have spent several weeks getting acquainted. But thousands of Moonies wed virtual strangers. "It's hard to explain to a outsider," said

who met his Filipina bride for the first time five days ago. "It's a question of belief."

A church booklet says: "Most church members desire that Rev Moon recommend a marriage partner. Romantic courtship relationships of the sort common among unmarried people in the West are discouraged within the culture of the church."

More than 8,000 couples were paired off by Mr Moon only days ago, mixing and matching photographs of would-be brides and grooms. They trickled into the stadium in pairs, some unable to speak the same language. Hands flew and pencils sketched out ideas as brides and grooms probed for information about the person with whom they would spend the rest of their lives.

Almost half the brides and grooms were Japanese. The messianic Unification movement, which regards Mr Moon as the third Adam completing a task left undone when Jesus was crucified, is strongest in Japan. The South Korean-based church claims to have more than two million

Odd couple scream their way to court

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

AS THE southern states shudder under the fury of Hurricane Andrew, New Yorkers continue to devote most of their attention to a tempest closer to home. The child custody battle between Woody Allen and his former lover the actress Mia Farrow moved yesterday from the pages of every magazine and newspaper in the city to the supreme court in Manhattan.

The latest charge against Allen, that he had brought forward the release date of his new film, *Husbands and Wives*, in order to capitalise on publicity surrounding the case, was splashed across the *New York Post* front page yesterday. The film stars Allen and Farrow and has eerie parallels with the drama being played out in real life. Given the welter of charges and counter-charges of child abuse, blackmail, violence and betrayal, allegations of mere greed may seem like light relief for Allen.

The Manhattan judge, Phyllis Gangel-Jacob, now has the task of unravelling the truth behind the vitriol. Yesterday, lawyers for both parties presented their pre-



Note of anguish: Woody Allen leaving Michael's Pub in New York after his weekly clarinet performance

liminary motions at a pre-trial hearing to set a schedule for later proceedings. As the judge who presided over the marriage break-up between Donald and Ivana Trump, Judge Gangel-Jacob is no stranger to celebrity feuds, but the Allen-Farrow case has achieved an emotional complexity reminiscent of Allen's films, and a melodramatic bitterness worthy of Wagner. Allen has acknowledged

that he is having an affair with Farrow's adopted daughter, Soon-Yi Farrow, who is believed to be about 21, but has denied allegations that he abused his own adopted daughter Dylan, seven. Allen, 56, claims he had no interest in Soon-Yi as a child: "I thought she was going to be a nun," he said.

Allen, in turn, has accused Farrow, 47, his companion of the past 12 years, of being an

abusive and violent mother unfit to retain custody of their three children, two of whom are adopted. Soon-Yi, who was adopted by Farrow and her former husband, the conductor Andre Previn, and who is now living with Allen, says her mother once hit her with a chair and was often abusive. Allen also says Farrow's lawyers tried to blackmail him for \$7 million (£3.5 million) in exchange for suppressing the allegations of abuse.

Both sides say that "much more" will come out in court. As Allen told *Time* magazine, he feels he is "at the centre of a cosmic explosion".

Whether New Yorkers will get to see and hear the second half of the drama has yet to be decided. On Monday, lawyers for both sides asked that film cameras should be banned from the court. Judge Gangel-Jacob ruled that, although other press representatives could attend, radio reporters and television cameras should be banned at yesterday's pre-trial hearing, but she reserved judgment on whether proceedings could be televised at a later date.

"It is a little late for these parties to discover now the virtue of privacy," a spokesman for Court TV said.

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BENTLEY  MOTORS

AUGUST 26 1992
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Nine killed
Boat spokes
Nuclear po
Robot fam
Bingo bulle
Grass wild

3

Ambitious peace talks cloak European and UN failures

THE London Conference, which the prime minister opens today, is the world's most ambitious attempt yet to find a comprehensive political solution to the break-up of Yugoslavia.

The conference is also, however, a tacit admission that poorly co-ordinated attempts by the European Community and by the United Nations to halt the fighting in the former Yugoslavia and to promote a lasting ceasefire there have failed.

The resignation of Lord Carrington, after a year of increasingly unproductive shuttle diplomacy, marks an end to the Europeans' attempt to resolve the conflict without involving powers outside the former Yugoslavia.

Britain has spent more than two weeks preparing this conference, which Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, originally opposed, believing it would undermine Lord Carrington's mission. The main danger now is that Serbia or another of the Yugoslav protagonists will walk out. But the pressures on them to remain to negotiate will be strong, especially as any walkout is likely to toughen international opinion against the parties refusing to negotiate.

This week's meeting marks a tacit admission that international attempts to promote a lasting ceasefire have not worked, Michael Binyon writes

An important by-product of the preparations has been the smoothing of relations with Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, who earlier accused the European Community, and especially Britain, of overplaying the Yugoslav crisis at the expense of other parts of the world and imposing on the United Nations more than it could handle.

The conference, due to end tomorrow evening, has set itself four objectives: a promise by all the warring parties not to use force; an end to ethnic cleansing; the closure of all detention camps; and, until then, an end to human rights violations inside them; and a respect by all sides for frontiers and the rights of ethnic minorities.

If any side rejects these terms the conference will try to mobilise the international community to impose harsher political and economic sanc-

tions than those that are now being deployed against Belgrade. Unless Serbian leaders follow through swiftly on promises made to halt the fighting in Bosnia, British officials are hoping for swift agreement among all, including the Russians, for new measures that could even include a total communications embargo.

The meeting in London brings together all the foreign ministers of the European Community plus Russia and America. Dr Boutros Ghali and his two senior under-secretaries, Marrack Goulding and Vladimir Petrovsky, Cyrus Vance, the special United Nations envoy; Lord Carrington, who will not step down until next week; representatives of Muslim countries; and the leaders of the six former Yugoslav republics and of their warring ethnic groups.

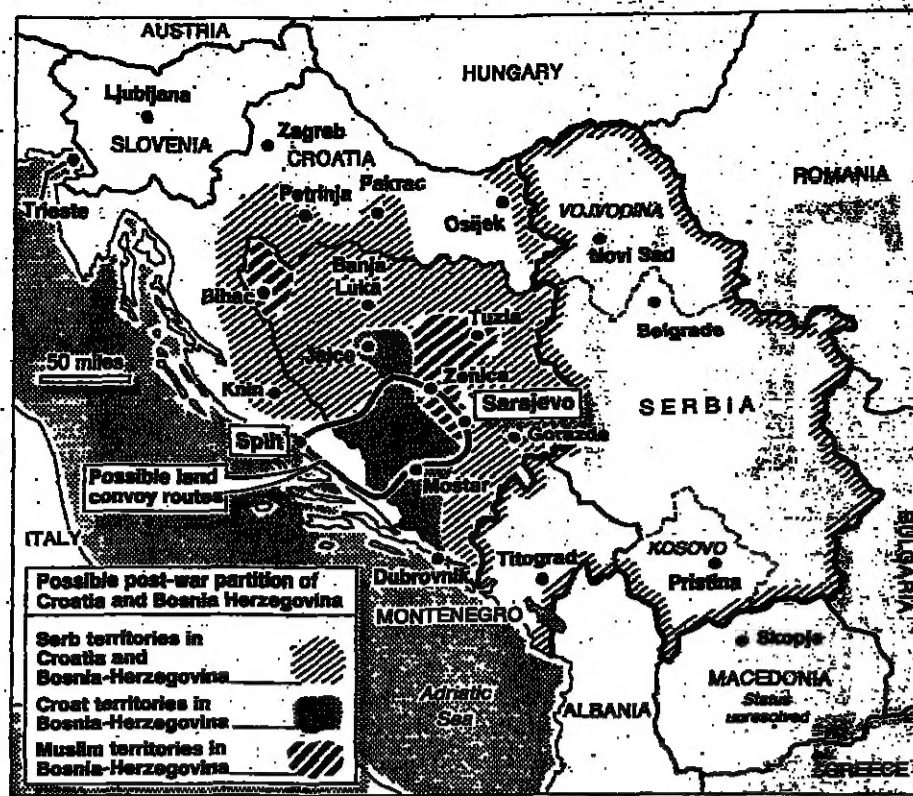
The conference is the begin-

ning of a standing international conference that will be based in Geneva, where Mr Vance and Lord Carrington's successor will continue negotiations on all the aspects of the break-up of Yugoslavia. "We are looking for a comprehensive political settlement of the issues raised by the republics that they can all agree to at the end of the day," one British official said.

Two immediate issues will dominate the London meeting: the fighting in Bosnia and the self-proclaimed rump state of Yugoslavia which has not yet been recognised by any other country.

British officials played down any hope for a quick end to the bloodshed in Bosnia. "We are not going for another, quick and easy ceasefire. It would only hold if it were accompanied by confidence-building measures. There can be no lasting ceasefire unless it takes into account supervision of heavy weapons, the refugees, control of the disparate military groups, the lack of trust, the hatred and bitterness," an official said.

The conference will also attempt to reach agreement on how sanctions should be tightened, if necessary, and on co-ordinated humanitar-



ian relief, especially the emptying of the camps and settling of refugees.

The conference will take over all the negotiations now going on under the European

Community aegis, including the four subgroups set up by Lord Carrington: on Bosnia, minorities, economic issues and the recognition of successor states. Two more sets of

talks will be held on humanitarian issues, chaired by Lord Carrington. The High Commissioner for Refugees — and an independent

building measures. All the participants will sit together round the table in the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre, but an agenda will govern the talks. Today will see mainly formal speeches, though, as a senior official said, "all conferences have occasions".

The more contentious issues will be tackled tomorrow. Any agreement would have to be based on international law and the principles governing border changes as the United Nations and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe.

The recognition of Macedonia's claim to come up in the agenda. The European Community, which is increasingly preoccupied by the Greek crisis, has recognised the independence of the Balkan state, but it is not clear if this will be a condition for its aid.

However, the tense situation in Kosovo will be a main point of discussion, and all sides will urge Serbia to allow international monitors into the province. The British government, however, has been even less flexible in its attitude over this than over Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Continued on page 10

West tries to reinforce oil embargo

FROM ROGER BOYES IN ZAGREB AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

BRITAIN and Germany are expected to take the lead at the London peace talks on Yugoslavia this week in an attempt to tighten economic sanctions against Serbia. Western diplomats said yesterday.

Many companies are still supplying goods to Belgrade and crucial deliveries are being made through Macedonia and along the Danube river. Pressure will be put on Greece to block the many oil tanker trucks that are crossing into Macedonia and then driving further to Belgrade. Romania will also be urged to monitor more closely the Russian oil shipments that are passing along the Danube into Serbia. The sanction bustlers are resorting to simple tricks, mainly using fake end-user certificates that suggest the goods are destined for republics other than Serbia or Montenegro. Serbian tanker trucks frequently change their

700,000 people are registered as unemployed. The hardest hit is Serbia's metal industry, with barely one in three employees still working. In the textile and chemical industries the situation is much the same. When sanctions were imposed the Serbian government optimistically forecast that they would not last longer than two or three months. In any case, the government tried to reassure the population that the Serbian economy would be strong enough to weather the sanctions.

"Life this winter is going to be extremely uncomfortable for Serbia," Douglas Hogg, the Foreign Office minister, said last week. This is probably correct. Petrov rationing limits motorists to about five gallons a month. The average monthly wage has fallen to about £19. Medical supplies are running short, partly because medicines used to be supplied by Croatia and partly because of the UN-imposed ban on imports. It is oil sanctions that are potentially most harmful, slowing down industry and almost certainly leading to the rationing of heating fuel for homes this winter.

licence plates to Bosnian ones and then go to a neighbouring country to pick up a load of fuel.

Belgrade-controlled companies have also set up dummy subsidiaries in Bosnia and Macedonia, neither of which is subject to the embargo that was imposed in June, to acquire petroleum products and other goods. One measure that will be taken during the course of the London conference is the setting up of a European customs team to watch over all crossing points into Serbia.

The sanctions are, however, beginning to bite in Serbia. The country is already suffering from hyperinflation and industrial chaos. It does not take much to make matters worse. Half a million people will have to be laid off work within a month or so. A shortage of raw materials and component parts is forcing many industries to close down. According to Belgrade radio, up to 250,000 Serb workers have already been sent on compulsory leave because their firms and factories have no work for them. Up to

Carrington resigns, page 1
Diary, page 10
Letters, page 11



Despairing appeal: Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, preparing to address the press in London yesterday on the eve of the Yugoslav peace conference. He says it is time for action before there are no Bosnians left, and rejects the carving-up of his republic.

Bosnian Muslims find little hope in squalor that passes for home

FROM ADAM LEBOR IN KARLOVAC, CROATIA

ONCE Karlovac sports hall resounded to the cheers of team fans. But rivalry between opponents in what was Yugoslavia has since taken a murderous turn, with victories notched up by opposing armies instead of sportsmen.

The battered building, which took direct hits during the Yugoslav federal army and Serb bombardment of Karlovac at the start of this year, has become home to 620 refugees. Most are Bosnian Muslims, nearly all women and children, their men returned to fight or work in Bosnia.

The building's windows have been shot out, the floor is lined with grubby mattresses and bedding and the air in the hall is stale. Beams of sunlight cut a path through the swirls of tobacco smoke.

A few children play, women

sit talking and in one far corner, a wizened old lady grimaces in pain as she tries to move on her mattress. She makes a pitiful sight.

For the younger refugees the hours drag endlessly. "I don't know how long we can stand it here," said Emira, cradling her 12-day-old baby Nada. "A baby has already died in this hall. But I don't complain." In some ways Emira and her husband Mustafa and son Daud are among the lucky ones. They lost everything when they left Sarajevo on foot through the woods. They do not know where their relatives are — or even whether they are alive — but they have each other.

Once a market trader,

Mustafa starts to cry as he describes the family and life he left behind in Sarajevo. "Our house was blown up on the first day of the bombardment. We have lost everything. I haven't spoken to my family for three months. I just hope there will be a chance to go again."

Home for Mustafa, his wife and children is now a few bags of belongings and a bit of floor-space. There are eight toilets that all the refugees share, and many people bathe in the nearby rivers.

"Labod", 40, a Muslim former fighter who was too frightened to give his real name, remarked: "The politicians in London should come here and see. None of them can know what is happening until they do."

Serb extremists target Albanian peasants

FROM ROBERT SEELY IN KRAISTE

KIFAP Khodja, 34, an ethnic Albanian farmer, pointed to the bullet holes in his two-storey brick barn. His building was fired upon, he said, by a group of Serbian policemen. "We have done nothing bad to anybody. I do not know why they attacked."

Others in Kraiste, a Kosovo village of peasant smallholdings ringed by fields of sunflowers and corn, have also been targeted by the Serb-controlled militia. Several of the villagers have been beaten and others have received regular visits from the police.

The home of Yusuf Kodrak, a pensioner, was also shot at by four men. "They want to exert pressure on me. My son is a member of an Albanian political party," Mr Kodrak said.

The Albanian majority in

Kosovo could become the next target of large-scale depopulation. The province's future is to be discussed today in London. Clearly, to force out nearly two million people — 90 per cent of the Kosovo population is Albanian — would be difficult.

But Kosovo is considered by most Serbs as an integral part of their geography.

The isolated incidents of armed attacks are seen as a sign that measures to shift the populations are due. The policy was successful in Bosnia on account of Western apathy. Dozens are leaving, some heading for Albania, some for other European countries. "The action is not so overt as in Bosnia, but the aim seems similar," Mr Khodja said.

Germany indicts spy chiefs

Berlin: Germany's chief prosecutor said yesterday that he had indicted four spy bosses from the former East Germany, including those responsible for Operation Guillaume, the agent who brought down the government of the West German Chancellor, Willy Brandt, in 1974.

The indictments are an important legal step against the once mighty intelligence chiefs of East Berlin. However, Markus Wolf, the former chief spy-master, is still under investigation and has not been indicted.

Despite the investigations and charges, it is still not certain whether former East German spies can be put on trial for carrying out their orders. The German supreme court has been asked to rule on the question, but has not issued any decision. (AP)

Armenia plea

Yerevan: President Ter-Petrosian of Armenia requested Britain, America and Germany to put pressure on Azerbaijan to end fighting over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh after Azerbaijani fighters bombed two towns north of Stepanakert. (AFP)

'Quick' closes

Berlin: The German weekly magazine Quick, whose breezy editorial recipe made it a symbol of West Germany's renewal after the second world war, is to close this week after 43 years of publication, its owners announced. (AFP)

Five arrested

Venice: The Christian Democrat regional secretary was among five people arrested here as part of an enquiry into corruption, a judicial source said. In addition, the vice-president of Treviso province was jailed on corruption charges with two other officials. (AFP)

Greeks strike

Athens: Greek transport workers launched a week of strikes that will involve bank, telephone, water, electricity, post, state television and Olympic Airways employees in protest against the conservative government's austerity programme. (Reuters)

Poland objects

Warsaw: Poland strongly protested at a decision by German authorities to extradite to the United States four Poles charged with illegal arms trading. They allegedly agreed to sell arms to American agents posing as buyers for Iraq. (AP)

Tibet protest

Hong Kong: Tibet's government-in-exile denounced China for launching what it called a "final solution" to suppress their homeland's quest for independence by embarking on the mass settlement of Chinese in their country. (Reuters)

Sex change

Moscow: Shopkeepers running short of small change in the Russian port of Severomorsk have started to give their customers, particularly soldiers, condoms instead, in place of the more usual sweets or small packets of salt. (Reuters)

BBC war veteran Martin Bell wounded by mortar fire in Sarajevo

MARTIN Bell, the BBC's veteran war correspondent, yesterday became the latest journalist to get caught in the crossfire while covering the war in Yugoslavia when he was wounded by mortar shrapnel in Sarajevo.

Millions of television viewers saw pictures of the journalist writhing on the ground after he was hit. Bell was heard saying calmly: "Okay, I'll survive. I am alive."

Bell, 53, was taken immediately to a United Nations field hospital, where two pieces of shrapnel were removed from his stomach and groin. In a stable condition, he was evacuated later by the RAF to the Croatian capital,

A respected British TV correspondent has joined the lengthening list of journalist casualties of the conflict, Melinda Wintstock, our Media Correspondent, writes

Zagreb, and was expected in London early today after being flown from Zagreb in a medically equipped plane sent by the BBC. A BBC doctor and John Mahoney, the foreign news editor, were on the plane.

Fighting in the former Yugoslav republics has claimed the lives of 27 journalists since the start of hostilities last year, and the International Federa-

tion of Journalists said yesterday that at least three more had been wounded or injured.

Bell, who has covered 11 wars but had never before been injured, narrowly missed being hit as he did a live interview for BBC Breakfast News in April.

Last week an ITN camera crew, including Nigel Thomson, the husband of the news-

reader Carol Barnes, and Jim Dutton, a sound recorder, were injured in a mortar attack in Sarajevo. Sebastian Rich, an ITN cameraman, recently lost the rocket in one ear after a rocket-propelled grenade hit a window frame in a room of the Sarajevo Holiday Inn and sent a glass shard through his jaw. David Chater, now ITN's royal correspondent, was shot in the back by a sniper in Croatia last November.

Tony Hall, the BBC's director of news and current affairs, said yesterday: "Martin Bell is one of the finest television reporters of his generation. He has a personal commitment to telling the

story in what was Yugoslavia and is our longest-serving journalist in that area. He is meticulous in his thinking about his safety and the safety of others."

Bell, who has a reputation for never sending a crew anywhere he would not go, was appointed OBE earlier this year in the Birthday Honours but was unable to attend the investiture at Buckingham Palace because he could not get a flight from Bosnia.

Bell, who was wearing a flak jacket and a "lucky" white suit, had driven yesterday morning to central Sarajevo to monitor an outbreak of mortar fire and was outside

the Marshal Tito barracks, which is used by UN troops as well as Muslim and Croat forces, when he was hit.

Captain Mark Cook of the 10th Airborne Battalion, who is in Sarajevo as commander of the British UN contingent, was with Bell. He told BBC's One O'Clock News: "Suddenly the mortar rounds started landing among us and I looked up and found he had been hit and was lying on the ground."

Last night, John Major, the prime minister, wrote to Bell wishing him a speedy recovery, and to Marmaduke Hussey, the BBC chairman.

Photograph, page 14



David Chater hit by sniper fire last year

John Major

German politicians demand riot enquiry

Citizens of Rostock applaud neo-Nazis

By Ian Murray in Rostock and Our Foreign Staff

SKINHEADS are the heroes of the moment among many ordinary people on Rostock's Lichtenhagen estate. Pensioners, housewives, and the unemployed all seem to think the extreme right-wing rowdies have done an excellent job over three days and nights in forcing the authorities to move out more than 200 Romanian gypsies who had been lodged in an 11-storey block of flats while waiting to have their refugee status checked.

Werner Scheffler, an unemployed shipyard worker, said: "We've been trying to get them out by democratic means for months. We wrote letters to the council complaining about the terrible mess they make. We asked the police to arrest them for camping on the green. We asked for our rent to be reduced because of all the nuisance we had to endure. Nobody listened to us. And then the 'skins' came. They got them out."

He gazed balefully at Sunflower House with its yellow mural and the gutted windows of the hostel that was set alight

has gone up sharply. Women say they are afraid to go home at night for fear of being molested. Everywhere the complaint is that the foreigners have been forced into the community without anything being done to safeguard local people.

In the city's market square yesterday afternoon, trade unions held a rally against xenophobia. However, Hans Orzinski remarked: "These people just don't know what they are talking about. It's all very well for these politicians and trade unionists to criticise us but they don't live next door to them. They don't have to put up with the mess."

The offices of a newspaper that first reported that it had received an anonymous phone call from a group claiming to represent the interests of the estate's community and promising to resolve the matter were attacked yesterday. The windows were broken, police believe anarchists may be responsible and fear there could be a clash between them and the skinheads. More riot police were brought in during the afternoon to guard against further trouble.

The neo-Nazis appear to have been extremely well-organised. Only a small group of local skinheads took part in the first demonstration on Saturday evening but the publicity this attracted brought in reinforcements on the next two days from many parts of Germany. Some were using walkie-talkies to issue commands and give tips about police manoeuvres.

The local state parliament is holding an urgent enquiry into what happened, amid criticism that the police failed to do their job properly. Many German politicians demanded an explanation as to why police withdrew from the hostel for around an hour, allowing gangs to storm the evacuated building and set the first floor alight. Herr Scheffler, on the other hand, is convinced they did their job only too well. "It just

seems wrong to see German police protect foreigners from Germans," he said.

The opposition Social Democrats in Bonn have called for an emergency session of the Bundestag to debate what happened. The party itself is now considering removing its objection to changes in the constitution that would allow asylum-seekers from countries such as Romania to be prevented from entering the country as refugees.

Politicians of all parties condemned the Rostock violence and said it was shameful that the rioters had been cheered on by thousands of local people. Hans-Rolf Goebel, of the Free Democrats, said: "Pictures are going around the world which recall quite a different Germany," a reference to Nazi pogroms against Jews. Norbert Blum, the Christian Democrat labour minister, said: "Germany's reputation is at stake."

Leading article, page 11



Hounded out: a Romanian mother and her children being escorted by police to a bus leaving Rostock after neo-Nazi attacks forced the closure of a refugee hostel

PEOPLE

Wife makes call for Honecker release

Margot Honecker, the wife of the former East German leader Erich Honecker, who is imprisoned in Germany's Moabit jail, launched a fervent plea in Chile for his immediate release on legal and humanitarian grounds.

Frau Honecker arrived in Chile to stay with her daughter — who married a former Chilean exile to the then East Germany — on July 31, immediately after Chilean embassy staff handed her husband over to German authorities for trial. In a packed and chaotic press conference scheduled to coincide with Herr Honecker's 80th birthday, she called on "all members of those governments who sustained political relations with my husband, and all those people... who think and feel in a humanistic fashion, to demand his freedom, without limitations".

Charges of soliciting a man for sex have been withdrawn against Australian Anglican Bishop Owen Dowling, 57, a prosecutor said. Bishop Dowling denied a police allegation that he tried to solicit an off-

duty policeman for prostitution at a park in Bendigo, a town in the state of Victoria. The bishop retires at the end of the year.

Romania has asked Hungary to extradite the former communist security police boss Alexandru Draghici, 76, to stand trial on death charges, the justice minister, Mircea Ionescu-Quintus, said.

John Mario Paul, 25, a Haitian journalist who was imprisoned and tortured by the country's military rulers, has won a 1992 "Freedom to Write Award" from Pen, the worldwide writers' association, in New York. The award was presented to him by Marianne Wiggins, the American novelist and former wife of Salman Rushdie, the British author in hiding after Iranian death threats.

Abbas Hamadi, 32, one of two Lebanese brothers jailed in Germany on terrorism charges, may be freed by Christmas, his doctor said.



early yesterday when the police left the scene after 20 hours of sporadic battles with the youths.

Rosa, a plump middle-aged housewife, said: "We are not racist. We don't hate foreigners. We just hate people who urinate on the stairways."

The story is the same all around from the local citizens who cheered and applauded as the skinheads fought running battles with the police and hurled abuse and stones at the Romanian gypsies in the hostel.

In the supermarket nearby they complain that shopping

Georgians threaten onslaught

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

A GEORGIAN commander has threatened to launch an onslaught today on the separatist Abkhazian community's forces unless Vladislav Ardzinba, their leader, steps down.

The threat to attack Gudauta, which has become the Abkhazian headquarters since Georgian troops entered the northwestern region of the republic in force on August 14, may be intended to preempt the arrival of volunteers from southern Russia to back the separatist cause. The ultimatum was made by Colonel Gia Karkarashvili after two soldiers were shot during an exchange of prisoners.

Thousands of fighters from the warrior races that inhabit the northern slopes of the Caucasus mountains are signing up to invade Georgia and reverse moves by Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, to assert control over the coastal region, according to local warlords. Abkhazian fighters also claim to have killed more than 40 Georgian soldiers in two days of fighting around Sukhumi and Gagra.

The Confederation of Mountain Peoples of the Caucasus, a shadowy year-old alliance between the small Muslim regions in the extreme south of Russia, has declared Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, a disaster area and threatens to launch a campaign of terrorism there. A document signed by the confederation's leaders, and published in yesterday's Russian press, ordered all local chieftains in the northern Caucasus to send fighters and "repel the aggressor" in Abkhazia. It said all ethnic Georgians living in the semi-independent regions of southern Russia forming the confederation should be viewed as hostages.

The strength of the confederation's forces is hard to assess, but its threats have caused alarm in Tbilisi. Mr Shevardnadze has said that the elections planned for October 11 may be imperilled.

The threats are also causing concern in Russia. If Moscow proves unable to stop the Muslim regions from taking military action against Georgia, that could set an ominous precedent for other regions of Russia which are straining at the leash.

Russians on road to envy

Charwomen are lusting hopelessly for Western cars, writes Mary Dejevsky

IN A northern suburb of Moscow, deep in the forest of ornamental structures that make up the old Soviet Union's defunct Exhibition of Economic Achievements, is hidden a glass and concrete building that for a few brief days this week will be a temple to that very Western god, the motor car.

This is the first international motor show in Moscow, surrounded with all the customary razzmatazz of its Western counterparts, and exhibiting the prize models of most Western producers. It is not, however, the first motor show ever held in Russia. Strictly speaking, it is the fifth: the fourth was held in St Petersburg in 1913, and the first in 1907, and the organisers are proud to think they are reviving a tradition and returning Russia to the world.

Yesterday, the day before the official opening, wide-eyed Russian construction workers and even wider-eyed Russian cleaning ladies wandered in a dream world of blue carpets, soft Western rock music, and sleek, shiny Western cars. "If only, if only, I could have one of those just for a moment," said one of the cleaners. "But there's not a hope."

With a price of \$29,000 (£14,500) for a second-hand Mercedes, more than 60 times the average annual salary, most Russians will have to be content with looking. There will be buyers, however, individuals, joint venture companies. The number of new Mercedes and Volvos with Russian registration plates has increased in the past year from almost nothing to several hundred.

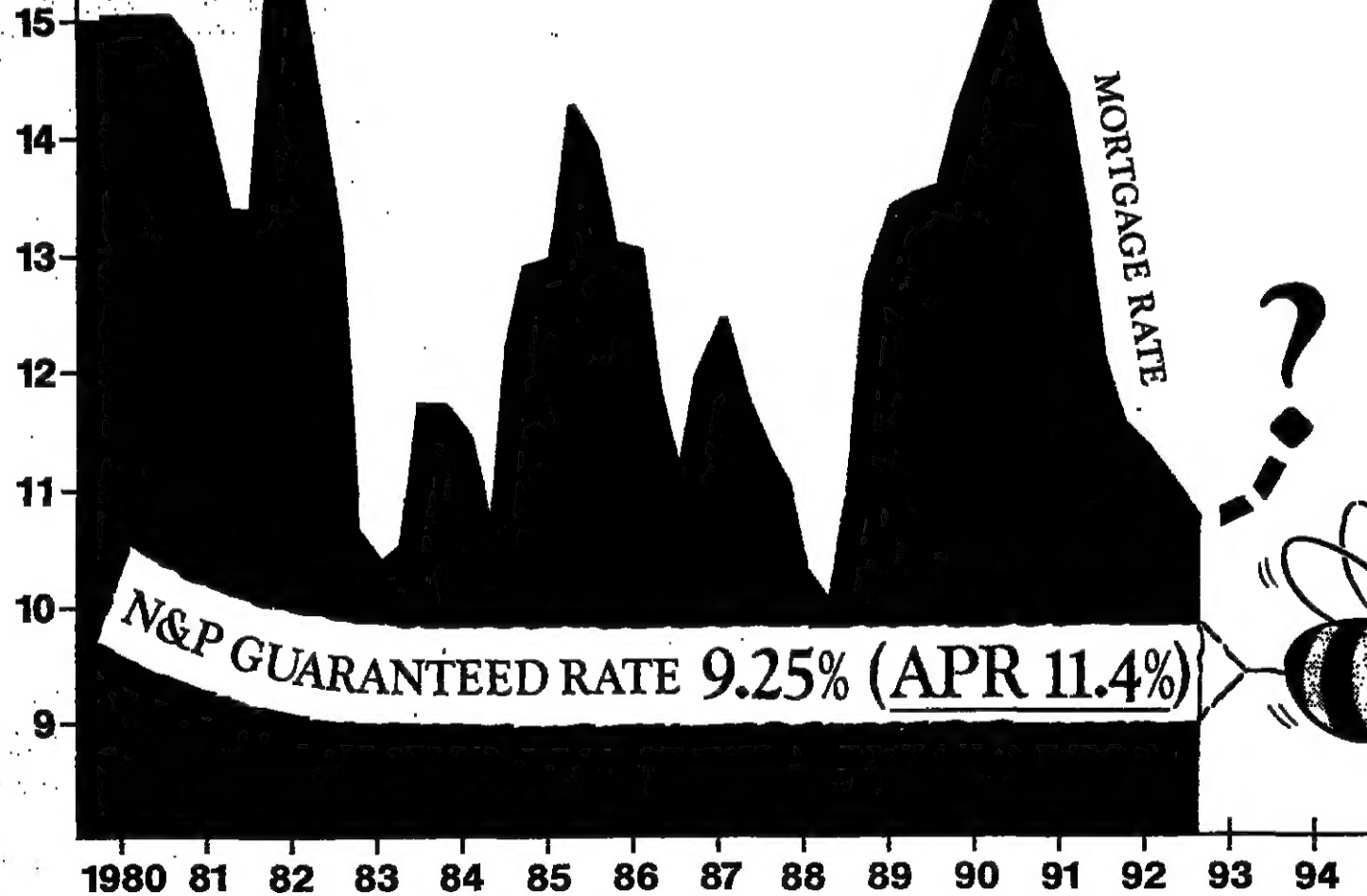
L&T section, page 4

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Texts for bad times

Michael Wright on a thrifty trend to bargain paperbacks

Just now times may be hard, but they are not half so hard as they were in 1935 when Allen Lane launched his pioneering series of Penguin paperbacks. People do not buy books in recessions. Oh, they browse, they re-read, they borrow. But they rarely part with the spindulicks: not unless the book is dirt cheap. And Penguins, at a mere sixpence each, were just that. They were revolutionary.

Now comes another recession, and with it another revolution. This time it is classic fiction at a quid a throw. In other words, *A Christmas Carol* is cheaper than most greetings cards and Joyce's *Dubliners* will set you back less than a pint of Guinness. Last year's *Dover* began to bring out its Thrift editions for a dollar apiece (95p in Britain), and last month Wordsworth Classics started churning out hefty tomes for just a pound. It is not as if paperback classics were inaccessible expensive before. On the contrary, the reader has been well served by the likes of Penguin Classics, World's Classics, and Everyman Paperbacks, which between them offer an eclectic range of titles that no bookshop publisher relying on massive print-runs could hope to match.

These big boys are battling it out for domination of a growing student market, relying on the heavy artillery of their erudite introductions and the small-arms fire of their "Notes on the Text". But when it comes to "soft classics" — your Jane Austens, your Hardy's and your Brontës — the pound-a-time people are beginning to mop up, offering texts that are no more or less reliable than those of their competitors, at a fraction of the cost, and without all the critical material.

All too often, the introductions, notes and bibliographies offered in paperback classics do more harm than good, alienating the general reader with a mussy-dusty whiff of academe, holding out a false sense of "this is all you need to know" security to the A-level mull-biter, while falling short of the depth required by the serious student.

As Paul Keegan, editorial director of Penguin Classics, puts it: "We've become over-protective, applying a kind of National Trust conservatism to the classics which can often seem ridiculous. Classics publishing has become set in certain ritualistic procedures which don't necessarily bear any relation to anything. Most people start reading a book, and if they like it, they'll read it. They don't need contextualisation, they don't need to be led by the hand. I think there is no need for introductions at all. And notes are uniformly done badly."

Such honesty is reassuring after listening to the adamant certainties of other editorial directors that students simply could not do without the critical baggage shovelled out for them. They dismiss the possibility of the new super-cheap editions posing much threat to their market share. "Our proper editions won't try to compete with theirs," declares Hilary Laurie at Everyman. "And do booksellers want to sell books for a pound?"

David Taylor, buying and marketing manager for Blackwell's, clearly does. "As far as we're concerned, anything that makes people buy and read more books has got to be a good thing." The sales figures for Wordsworth Classics are certainly convincing, with more than 700,000 copies already sold, and sold fast. In Yorkshire, for instance, 4,000 copies of *Wuthering Heights* went in two days. That's not bad going for a book that has already been on the market for 145 years.

As peace talks begin in London, two writers ask if there is hope of the West finding a solution

No end to a Balkan disaster

Arming Bosnia may prolong the war but produce a just outcome

Peace conferences are grand events. The food is usually excellent (the menus from Versailles in 1918 are collector's items) and the conversation is rarely boring. The London talks on the future of Yugoslavia should therefore have made for an interesting spectacle, as butchers, victims and diplomats sit down at the same table. But the likelihood is that it will be merely a series of poorly digested dinners and tantrums rather than deals.

The reason is that peace conferences should occur at the end of war, at a point of exhaustion and surrender. This one is being staged in the thick of war, and some of the participants have barely had time to put on a clean shirt. The Serbs are smug, having captured 70 per cent of Bosnia. The Croats still consider themselves in a state of war; they too have grabbed Bosnian land and are planning ways to retake the territory they lost to Serbia last year. The Bosnian Muslims have launched a counter offensive and are searching the arms bazaars of the Arab world for new weapons. This is hardly a basis for peace: more of a half-time break.

The optimists say that since Serbia's appetite has been sated, it will now stop fighting. Since Serbian aggression started the war, there is now scope for ending it: the UN can be installed to keep the guns silent and protect minorities.

The Muslims can be persuaded to use diplomacy to regain some of their lost territory.

The pessimists argue that the London conference is doomed to legitimise the carve-up of Bosnia Herzegovina, that there is no other formula than "land for peace". Such a peace, however, would be illusory and would merely fuel further war. The Muslim fighters are moving into high gear: they are being robbed not only of land, but of their state. And even if the guns were to fall silent, Serbia would soon face a fresh war against the Albanians of Kosovo.

This is what the pessimists say, and they have already been proved right several times during this war. That does not mean a thirty year war is inevitable, but it is important to listen to the pessimists and draw quick conclusions. Again and again European and UN diplomacy has been wrong-footed by events in the Balkans. Should we have recognised Croatia and Slovenia more quickly? Should we have recognised them separately, forcing Zagreb first to make concessions to the Serb minority? Almost every step taken by the West has come too late. Sanctions were imposed on Serbia after giving it three months or more to build up stocks. Western military intervention was not threatened in April — when it might have stopped the Serbian advance in Bosnia — but is

suggested now, in August, when the Serbs have already snatched what they want. There is no point in attacking now unless as part of a full-scale war against Serbia.

With all three parties — Serbia, Croatia and Bosnia — on a war footing, diplomacy is condemned to failure. There are some useful humanitarian tasks to accomplish, such as feeding and sheltering the two million refugees during the winter, and the conference will score a limited success if it can win a measure of protection for these hapless victims; but the best the diplomats can hope to do at the moment is to ameliorate the symptoms of war, and to lower the level of violence by a UN presence.

The UN has not been very successful in Croatia — where it "protects" three disputed regions — and is even less useful in Bosnia.

Far from welcoming the blue helmets, the residents of Sarajevo are profoundly angry with them. The popular perception is that they squat in their white armoured vehicles and do nothing when ten yards away a sniper shoots down yet another housewife.

An expanded UN trusteeship taking over the whole of Bosnia might just work, but by the time it was established, financed and authorised by the world community, the Serbs might well have completed their ethnic cleansing and carried the war elsewhere.

The great advantage of a UN "solution" to the Bosnian war is that everybody could promptly forget about the Balkans, shifting their attention again to Maas-tricht, and grumble when the UN

bill arrived. The UN option, however, is a substitute for real political decisions. Indeed some Croats call it "the aspirin solution", little more than a cure for a headache. The choice for the West is plain: do we allow Bosnia Herzegovina to be chopped up, in the hope that this will keep the Serbs and the Croats quiet; or do we help Bosnia to regain its state, which has after all been recognised by the European Community and the United States? The morally correct decision is obvious, but nobody in the West has a taste for war on behalf of Bosnia.

Yet there is another possibility: to supply weapons and instructors quickly to Bosnia. Both Britain and America have expressed qualms about this, arguing that there are already too many weapons in the region. But the point is to give Bosnia the opportunity to fight for itself. The UN arms embargo currently bars any such deliveries. A decision to re-arm Bosnia, as Lady Thatcher has suggested, would be a gamble

needing firm leadership and no quiescence.

Arming Bosnia would certainly prolong the war, but it would also increase the chances of a just conclusion and demonstrate that the West will resist all attempts to change frontiers by force. And since it would save our soldiers, it would satisfy those who are presently arguing that we should forget the Balkans. Arming the Bosnians, say diplomats, is "controversial", but it is no more so than the *sub rosa* financing, training and arming of the Muslim rebels in Afghanistan.

President Alija Izetbegovic will be asking for guns at the London talks. If the West turns him down he will certainly turn to Iran and other Middle Eastern states. The West must tell the Serbian leadership that unless ethnic cleansing ends immediately, it will supply weapons to Bosnia. This may not sound like the conciliatory phraseology of a peace conference, but the fact is that there is no peace. The war rages on and the time has come to take sides. There is already blood on the tablecloth.

ROGER BOYES

Will the West dare to fight?

Without a clear strategy, pious censure of Serbia means nothing

The Western delegates at today's international peace conference on the Yugoslav crisis have an unenviable task. After a succession of broken ceasefires, ineffective EC troikas and inconclusive conferences under the chairmanship of Lord Carrington, not to mention thousands of dead and hundreds of thousands "ethnically cleansed", few can be optimistic that the conference will do anything to reconcile the bitter opponents in the Balkan war. So far, calling the conference has exacerbated the crisis, encouraging the Serbs to consolidate into a *fait accompli* what they have conquered and "cleansed", and pushing the Bosnian government into a counter-attack to give credence to its claims to represent a viable entity.

The Yugoslav participants may be forgiven for wondering what it is that their hosts want from them. Western leaders such as George Bush and John Major have deplored the violence in Yugoslavia, but they have wavered over what they consider to be a solution and what they might contribute to it. At first, America and the European Community seemed united in opposing Slovenia and Croatian secession from Yugoslavia. In the distant days of June and July 1991, the decaying Soviet colossus

still struggled to preserve its unity and President Bush did not want to precipitate its collapse by endorsing Balkan disintegration.

Mr Bush's foreign policy has been underpinned by a doctrine committing the West to uphold the status quo. Hence he was not prepared to see Iraq disappear from the map, even though he had fought to restore Kuwait. But the Yugoslav crisis has thwarted his conservative instincts. Greater Serbia is as much a novelty as poor Bosnia, and a great deal more destabilising. Saddam Hussein's threat to the stillborn New World Order was that of the classic tyrant conqueror: while Slobodan Milosevic is the model of a post-communist threat: he has demonstrated the unhappy *nomenklatura* around the globe how to survive the collapse of communism and prosper.

Much is made of how confusing the successive wars have been in the Balkans: it is difficult to know whose side we should be on, and easy for us to forget after the next divisions of the Cold War that this state of confusion usually reigned in the past, not least in the 1930s. Aggressors rarely lack for arguments to support their actions. Western diplomats have always been on hand to retail them to their governments, and the victim



of aggression is rarely self-evidently saintly: Poland was not a haven of democracy or racial tolerance in 1939, but it certainly was by comparison with Nazi Germany. In 1935, was it not possible that Hitler's half-naked tribesmen had provoked Mussolini's tanks and bombers?

Even in 1938, voices were raised about the boorish behaviour of the Czechs towards the Sudeten Germans, who in any case had a "democratic" right to join up with Nazi Germany if that is what they wanted. Sixty years ago, conferences were held and the League of Nations passed resolutions imposing arms embargoes on both aggressor and victim. Aggressors, however, always find friends, anxious to curry favour and deflect their ambitions, and willing to help bypass sanctions.

Today's sanctions-breakers are motivated partly by profit and partly by sympathy with Mr Milosevic, but also by fear of what the Serbian army might do next. They have seen the ease with which a few gunmen and their spokesmen can create a minority-rights issue out of a peaceable group of neighbours.

The siren voices who urge inaction on the West and base their case on an appeal to Balkan history have added to the confusion: they talk glibly of age-old tribal wars and recall with approval the days when the jingoes in this country sided with the Sultan's bashi-bazooks in the 1870s and were prepared to fight for the Ottoman Empire.

No policy of active involvement in a war is without great risk, particularly when the war has

been allowed to build up as much momentum as the current Balkan war. But to stand aside from the shambles in Bosnia invites further trouble, and not just in the Balkans. Unlike the decaying Ottoman Empire of a century ago, which could still deal cruelly with its subjects but did not threaten its neighbours, Serbia's rulers and the nationalist passions they have stoked up and directed are hardly likely to be sated by success. Those in the Foreign Office who hope that Mr Milosevic will calm down now he has most of what he wants are naive. His regime depends for its survival on finding new enemies to justify its existence and to silence internal opposition.

Throughout the world, not least in the former Soviet Union, the West's passivity in the face of Serbian conquests has been

watched with astonishment. The West's toleration of such violence on the very borders of the EC does not encourage faith in its commitment to the authority of international law further afield.

For 18 months, President Bush has dithered about whether Iraq's survival as a state is more important than toppling Saddam Hussein's regime, complete with its ethnic cleansing programme. The uncertainty that has marked Western policy in dealing with the collapse of Yugoslavia, and its unwillingness to bring to bear its overwhelming power to impose a solution puts temptation in the path of others faced by challenges to their power and privileges from ethnically divided populations.

Had today's conference been for Nato and its Pacific-rim allies alone, it might have been much more useful. They should sit down together and work out what they wish to achieve, not only in Yugoslavia but throughout the world, and should agree a programme and on how to share out the costs in money and blood. Until the West is ready for action, pious denunciations of ethnic cleansing or military aggression will mean nothing. Until the West has worked out its aims and a clear strategy to achieve them, peace conferences will be an expensive diversion, providing merely a comfortable vantage point from which to watch the business of war and conquest.

MARK ALMOND

The author is a fellow of the Institute for European Defence and Strategic Studies, London.

...and moreover ALAN COREN

To gentlemen in England now abed, the nub of this whole tacky business is doubtless the possibility that it may well have given a terminal shake to the foundations of the House of Windsor; but let me tell them that, up here at the shellshocked kitchen front, many another hitherto sturdy edifice is winning as its bright stucco cracks and the Provencal tiles slide from its roof. For this time, it is we out here who think ourselves accursed, especially if we do not hold our manhoods cheap.

Or, indeed, hold them at all. Now, my own current premises lie just a few miles along the azure coast from, if I may be permitted to switch Elizabethans, those lopsided towers where sweet Fergie was recently making herself immortal with a kiss, and while they may not be quite as swish as those which attracted the attention of the *Daily Mirror's* property correspondent, they do boast a delightful swimming pool surrounded by comfy loungers which — though a brace of fleshy rompers might find themselves sinking slowly groundwards to the accompaniment of a somewhat unromantic hiss — are more than adequate for the solo sunbather. Furthermore, the spot is secluded by oleander and bougainvillea, and the nearest houses lie half a mile away, across the valley.

And now, a word or two about breakfast. Every morning, exemplary host that I am, I leap up as the first cicada salutes the rising sun, and run down to the village to buy croissants for the still-snoring household. English guests all, they cry that that is one of the great things about France, mmm, fresh croissants, mmm, delicious... they then nibble a corner, scattering their rest into a thousand flakes which float down so that a million waiting ants, having formed fairs in the garden in anticipation of a scent on the breeze, may begin marching into the house with the unwavering precision of the Waffen SS, thereby giving me the opportunity to spend much of the rest of the day fruitfully engaged with aerosol and dustpan instead of frittering it away by the pool.

I do not mind this at all, because of the two joyous bonuses which go with croissants: the first is that I am early enough to get my hands on one of the handful of English newspapers which dawn brings to our local shop, and the second is that I can get back home in time not only to have my morning swim but thereafter to dry off on a floating li-lo, reading the paper before the mob have had the chance to reduce it to a tattered wodge made illegible by a combination of sun-oil and the dismembered parts of large swatted things which seem always to have their clogs popped in the middle of particularly crucial paragraphs.

And moreover, the most exquisite element of all is that the swim is nude. I do not intend to bang on anent the components of that exquisiteness, but I would

just say that it is not exclusively sensual: pottering naked through dawn-dappled water not only puts the swimmer in pantheistic touch with darling lizard and rising lark, it allows him an atavistic glimpse of that brief pre-lapsarian time before the snake slithered down the tree and brought bathing trunks into the world.

At last, it did! I did! Last Monday, last Monday, I hurried home with croissants and *The Sunday Times*, stripped off, hurried myself into the pool, and dived. I emerged to lie supine on the air bed and relish the news from home. And where would the expatriate first turn for this but to the "News Review" section? And where but there would he see two photographs demon-

strating what may be done with what the caption described as an 800mm lens with a 2x converter? And what would he do then? He would immediately put *The Sunday Times* to a use for which it was not primarily designed. For by turning his head a fraction, he could see the hill-top houses half a mile away, and suddenly half a mile was a very short distance indeed. And who could say where Daniel Angeli might be today, telephoto in one hand, cellphone in the other? I cannot of course estimate my value, my line to the throne is somewhat tenuous, but every man has his price, and who can be sure that a great professional like Signor Angeli would turn his nose up at ten bob from the *Cricklewood Weekly Advertiser*?

Corridors of embarrassment

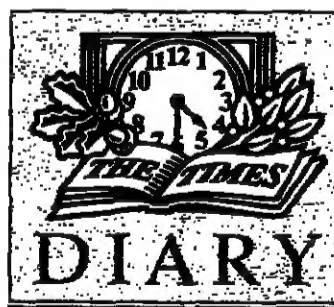
EVEN before John Major and Boutros Boutros Ghali open today's Yugoslav peace talks, there is an ominous possibility that the leaders of the warring factions will have already had their first falling out.

The Foreign Office has left each delegation to make its own accommodation arrangements, raising the distinct possibility that those seeking to exterminate each other back in the Balkans could find themselves in neighbouring hotel rooms in London.

Many of the delegations are staying at the Carlton Tower Hotel, the most popular venue during Lord Carrington's London peace talks last month. Then there were some difficult moments as leaders not officially on speaking terms kept bumping into each other in the hotel lifts.

Or Radovan Karadzic, the leader of the Bosnian Serbs. Is not taking that chance, and has booked into the Langham Hilton instead. "Being more publicity conscious than most, I suspect that decision is motivated by the fact the BBC studios are only a two minute walk away," said one candid aide. Karadzic has only observer status at the conference, but still plans to get his message across. From the comfort of his specially equipped £2 million Lear jet, complete with its new state of the art communications centre, he had faxed a personal letter to all 650 British MPs, even before landing.

Yet despite the public posturing and the bloodshed back home, the leaders of the warring factions appear to get on much better privately than they are prepared to let on. Last time around, Mate Boban, the Croat former supermar-



ket manager who has proclaimed western Herzegovina as the independent state of Herceg-Bosna, met with his arch enemy Milan Panic (prime minister of the rump of Yugoslavia) and Karadzic at the Savoy. Panic asked: "How can I stop these thugs running around Bosnia and Herzegovina?" Boban responded: "You can start by arresting all of us." The three chuckled and ordered drinks all round.

One who is taking a keen interest in the Yugoslav peace talks from his Scottish estate near Nairn is Lord Campbell of Croy. His *Neighbour in Need* scheme was highlighted in this column recently and has so far raised £15,000 for refugees fleeing to Austria from the Balkans. "The money raised is largely due to the kindness of readers of *The Times*," he says. "We are most grateful."

Chain mail

MILITARY strategy, superior technology and good luck are probably required in equal measure to win a war, and Whitehall's top brass is taking no chances. For more than three months, a chain letter has been circulating in the ministry of defence, demanding that recipients forward it to five friends if they wished to remain healthy and wealthy. No one, it seems, has

yet dared to break the chain. Among those who have signed the letter and sent it on are General Sir Peter de la Billière, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, Air Marshal Sir William Wratten, Brigadier Jeremy Phipps and Alan Thomas, head of defence export services. Most have appended short messages along the line of "I don't believe this superstitious nonsense but..."

One participant, who must remain anonymous, wrote: "I pass this on in the divine belief that my luck will be blonde."

By the end of last month, the letter had begun circulating in the Northern Ireland Office, although it has not yet reached Downing Street or the Treasury. Perhaps someone had better add them to the chain double quick.

Republic of letters

DIANA said: "Poor Charles." Fitzroy said: "Yeah, you must be lonely without him, I expect?" Their eyes met for a split second, but it was long enough for them both to know that Diana was not going to be too lonely. There would be compensations. Diana blossomed...

No, not another mystery royal tape, but a passage from Sue Townsend's latest novel, *The Queen and I*, a timely tale of the downfall of the House of Windsor, due to be published next month. In the book, the nation turns against the royal family who are stripped of their stately homes and rehoused in a couple of two-bedroomed council houses in the Midlands. The Queen Mother is allocated a pensioner's bungalow while Charles ends up in prison charged with affray and assaulting a police officer.

Unsurprisingly, perhaps, Townsend is lying low, but her agent, Robert Kirby, yesterday said: "There was no intention for

the book to coincide with the royal scandals. It is a happy accident." Kirby insists the book is "a bit of fun", and while other writers might have had trouble, "everyone knows Sue's style from the *Adrian Mole* books."

Yet already the book, and in particular the passage describing the demise of the Queen Mother and her deathbed confession that she never wanted to marry George VI, have failed to arouse at least one patriotic fellow author, Dame Barbara Cartland says: "I think it is appalling. It is so degrading and so wrong. It is low and common and vulgar. If we are not careful we will not have a monarchy at all. Then we would have someone like George Bush every five years, and I couldn't bear that."



The ultimate recession hand-book is published in the *United States* next month: *Sell Yourself to Science — The Complete Guide to Selling Your Organs, Body Fluids, Bodily Functions and Being a Human Guinea Pig*. There was a time when such practices were restricted to Third World countries. Bill Clinton will surely be asking whether George Bush's America has really stooped so low.

501 من الاصل



ECHOES OF NAZISM

Any German should be deeply ashamed of the attacks by 1,000 neo-Nazi skinheads on a hostel for Romanian Gypsy refugees in the former East German town of Rostock. The racist violence, the chanting of "Germany for the Germans" and the cheering by onlookers are reminiscent of the anti-semitic frenzy of the Hitler days. Gypsies were also racial victims of the Holocaust.

More shocking still is tolerance verging on support for the demonstrators by the local authorities. Their suggestion that the uncontrolled influx of foreigners had "released aggression in their German neighbours" evokes the worst encouragement of fanaticism. As shocked German ministers now admit, Germany's postwar reputation for liberal hospitality is at stake and action is urgently needed to protect it.

The incident, the worst in a series of ugly attempts to intimidate asylum-seekers, underlines the need both to limit the flood of new asylum seekers and to protect those now in Germany. Last year there were 990 attacks on foreign refugees, including the fire-bombing of Third World hostels, murders and assaults. This was three times the total in 1990. The number of new refugees has grown from 250,000 to 400,000 a year, and may soon top half a million.

The growth of racism has been shown in the rise of the far right. Anti-immigration parties are now represented in three of Germany's 16 states. There are 38,000 members of groups devoted to the memory of Hitler. The Office for the Protection of the Constitution says the far right is now a greater threat than the Red Army Faction and the extreme left.

Racism is a scapegoat for economic hardship that needs little encouragement. Most attacks have occurred in former East Germany, where unemployment has brought soaring unemployment, social malaise and anguish over the future. In Rostock unemployment is running at 17 per cent. Unlike West Germany, the former communist government not only pretended that racism did not exist, but it did nothing to

ensure the right lessons were drawn from the Nazi period.

Helmut Kohl's government has long said that Germany's excessively liberal asylum laws were leading to social unrest that would be ever harder to control. He proposed a change in the constitution that would set tougher criteria for entry and thus discourage the wave of economic refugees who make for Germany from all over eastern Europe because they know it is the easiest European country to enter. The Social Democrats refused to cooperate, denying the government the two-thirds majority needed for a constitutional change. Some may have been playing politics; most were acting in good faith, believing that Germany, because of its past, has a special duty to show compassion.

The chancellor therefore proposed an acceleration of the processing of refugees, partly to get them out of the hostels that have become targets, partly to stop them remaining indefinitely, having avoided early eviction. He also wanted the European Community to take responsibility for a common immigration policy, to enable him to change the constitution by pleading international necessity against the social democrats.

The SPD has now conceded that its present stance is hurting the refugees and damaging German tolerance. The chances of tightening the laws in the wake of the recent attacks look brighter than before. Some 86 per cent of Germans questioned in a recent poll express abhorrence of racist attacks, but this is clearly not enough to encourage the authorities to confront the skinheads who carry them out.

Germany's neighbours cannot cast stones. They do not have half a million people of widely differing cultural backgrounds pouring in each year. But with up to two million victims of the ethnic cleansers of Bosnia soon looking for foreign refuge, Germany can no longer be the open haven of the past quarter century. The country has clearly reached the limits of its tolerance. Here is a good cause for the rest of Europe to espouse collectively.

LIFE ASSURANCE RACKET

A doctor who prescribed useless drugs because he was bribed by the drug company would deserve to be struck off. Yet in the investment of life savings, an area as vital to happiness as health, bad advice is all too common and rarely goes punished.

Today *The Times* reports on the problems of people being sold certain life assurance policies. They are charged such high fees and commissions that if they surrender them early, they lose most of all their money. They are sold policies that are often quite unsuitable by advisers who profit from the commissions the insurance companies pay.

Even independent financial advisers, who are supposed to have the best interests of their customers at heart, are often reluctant to advise them to leave their money on deposit in a bank or building society. They are more likely to recommend one of the many insurance-linked savings schemes in order to earn themselves commission.

The position of tied agents is even more pernicious. They can sell only the savings products of one company. A customer soliciting their advice will inevitably be pushed towards one product, which may be less attractive and more expensive than others on the market and totally unsuitable to the customer's circumstances. In a survey last year, the Securities and Investments Board found that between a quarter and third of life assurance holders terminated their policies within two years of signing up.

Because commission and fees are charged almost entirely at the beginning of the policy, people who surrender early lose almost all the money they have paid in. The salesmen themselves are paid most of their commission when the policy is first signed, so they have little financial incentive to ensure that the product suits the client.

Since the new regime of self-regulation was introduced in 1988, the opposite of what was intended has happened. Competition

has fallen, commissions have risen and value for money is worse. Independent financial advisers have found it more lucrative to become tied agents. Their market share was 47 per cent in 1989; it dropped to 38 per cent in 1990 and most people expect it to stabilise at around 25 per cent.

Commissions are now between a quarter and a half as large again as the old maximum commission that was abolished. It is still hard for consumers to discover exactly how much commission they will be charged. The ideal solution would be for them to pay a standard fee for independent advice. Advisers would then be in the same position as an accountant, a lawyer or a doctor: beholden to no-one and with only the interests of the client at heart.

The British balm at paying for financial advice, even though they already do so in the form of commission, which is disguised. Transparency is what is needed. Regulators should force companies to disclose their commissions and should then publish league tables of commission charges and of performance. They should also publish the policy termination rates of different companies.

Unfortunately, the regulators show no sign of introducing the sort of firmer regulation that would encourage transparency and competition. Because the industry polices itself, this is not surprising. SIB and Lauro (the life assurance regulator) have proposed revised rules for the selling of life assurance, which are presently being considered by the Office of Fair Trading. But they simply tinker with a system of self-regulation which, because of its conflicts of interest, cannot work in the best interests of the consumer.

The OFT should reject the proposals and suggest instead that the Treasury introduce far tougher regulation, in which the public interest is preferred to that of the commission-earner and in which the hard-won savings of ordinary people cannot be abused.

FUNDING FESTIVALS

A fascinating conundrum is supplied by today's report of the Policy Studies Institute into arts festivals. It found that they were booming. Scarcely a city or town in Britain does not boast a festival. The number has doubled since 1980 to 527, with a total turnover of over £40 million. They are now important tourism draws, so much so that organisers are becoming concerned at the proliferation of the competition. Audiences are rising, visitors are enthusiastic, and voluntary support from both artists and organisers continues to be forthcoming.

Festivals are not merely vehicles for local talent with safe programmes. The researchers found that a third of the festivals commission new work. Many, from Edinburgh and Aldeburgh to the most modest local arts weekend, are of real artistic distinction. Most make use of both professional and amateur artists and all are a lively focus of community activity. The arts festival may be easy to satirise, but it suggests a British grassroots renaissance, the arts on display at the point of sale, culture at its most customer-friendly.

Yet respondents to the PSI survey, rather than glory in their public success, bemoan their lack of public subsidy. The organisers demand more financial support from central and local government. Half the festivals report themselves to be in deficit. They welcome their current expansion but appear to feel that the state, rather than booming audiences, should finance their continued growth. Are they justified in their demand?

The question of how much arts subsidy should be spent on activity outside London is an eternally delicate one. Those who have

asked it, as did the Arts Council in the 1980s, were exasperated. No arts minister, certainly not the present one, will want the odium of asking it again, let alone answering it in favour of the provinces and their arts festivals. The big London institutions take the lion's share of subsidy; thus it will remain.

The glory of the festivals is that, despite the perils of recession, they need not involve themselves in the subsidy debate. It is the fact that they have been demand-led that has clearly underpinned their success in the 1980s. Their programmes must reflect what their audiences — and to an extent their participants — want. Their venues, a constant source of worry to them, are likely to be whatever is available locally: churches, schools, warehouses, even tents on the common, not expensive purpose-built halls. As the report says, a festival is meant to "attract sections of the population that other arts promoters have failed to reach." For this reason, many are moving away from the traditional fare of classical music.

The excitement of a local festival lies in its freedom, in its scope to do the unexpected — and if it fails, to fail cheaply. The hundreds of thousands who attend such festivals each year may be more deserving recipients of the Arts Council's support than the big London companies. But as with amateur art, another flourishing but subsidy-deprived field of the arts in Britain, it is more likely that festivals flourish because of the absence of public subsidy than because of its presence. At the very least the arts minister should give them a generous pat on the back.

Whose hand on the economy?

From Mr David Howell, MP for Guildford (Conservative)

Sir, If any more proof were needed, recent events surely confirm beyond doubt the case for an independent monetary authority in Britain. As your shrewd editorial "Crisis? What crisis?" (August 24) observes, there is no sterling crisis. Yet something approaching a lynch mob has been gathering against the Chancellor for even daring to consider higher interest rates as a short-term response to a short-term problem with origins elsewhere in the international financial system.

How much more sensible it would be if the lead was taken on monetary adjustment problems of this sort not by Treasury ministers but by a strong Bank of England, acting as the central monetary authority.

We would then be rid of the notion that monetary policy can be pushed this way and that by political voices or axe-grinding professors. That would surely be much fairer on the Chancellor and much better for sterling's reputation.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HOWELL,
House of Commons.
August 24.

From Mr Leolin Price, QC

Sir, Either the exchange-rate mechanism is not working or it is working against us.

The Bundesbank, understandably in its role as Germany's central bank, is concerned to act in what it perceives as Germany's interests. Distinguished economists tell us that the present exchange-rate troubles amount to a crisis centred in Germany; but, even if the German government were to suggest to the Bundesbank that there is urgent need for policy changes affecting monetary policy and the Deutschmark, the Bundesbank's vaunted independence would permit it to resist every such suggestion.

The lesson is first, that ERM is a straitjacket from which we must escape; secondly, that a central bank's independence is unacceptably dangerous. The creation of a constitutionally irresponsible body with such power should commend itself only to arrogant elitists who instinctively favour giving power to clever bureaucrats.

Yours truly,
LEOLIN PRICE,
10 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.
August 25.

From Professor A. P. Thirlwall

Sir, In the 1980s, when Nigel Lawson was Chancellor of the Exchequer, it was fashionable for government to say that the current account of the balance of payments doesn't matter and there is nothing special about manufacturing industry compared to service activities. Those of us who argued otherwise were regarded as economic dinosaurs, out of touch with current thinking.

Now, with the currency increasingly fragile, manufacturing industry continuing its relentless decline and the balance of payments still in massive deficit despite two years of negative growth, would any of the trendy economists and politicians of the 1980s still care to argue that the balance of payments and manufacturing industry should be matters of benign neglect?

If we had a thriving manufacturing sector contributing to export growth and import substitution, sterling could sit perfectly happily within the current fixed bands of the exchange-rate mechanism, without the need for high interest rates to defend its value and recession would be avoidable.

There is no easy short-term solution to Britain's chronic economic malaise (not even devaluation), but more telling and worrying, no long-term solution either without an economic strategy designed to improve the performance of the tradable-goods sector of the economy.

The lack of such a strategy has been the major failing of British economic policy for the last 40 years, exacerbated in the 1980s by government abrogation of virtually any responsibility for the real economy.

Yours sincerely,
A. P. THIRLWALL,
University of Kent at Canterbury,
Canterbury, Kent.
August 25.

Business letters, page 19

Role of Muslim women

From the Imam of the London Mosque

Sir, Matthew Parris's article, "Still the world's outcasts" (August 10), failed to appreciate the fact that all that is done in the name of Islam is not Islam.

True Islam is that which is mentioned in the Holy Koran and explained in the noble traditions of the Holy Prophet. Anything not substantiated by these is not Islam. All examples quoted by Matthew Parris in his article fall into this category.

Real Islam is the true benefactor of all human beings, women and men alike.

Evaluation of A-level results and increasing exams' scope

From the Chairman of the Headmasters' Conference

Sir, Your leader on the implications of the A-level results ("A-level 'race'", August 20), fails to address the central issues raised by the low take-up of the AS examination. This is due not to a rejection of "breadth" on the part of schools but to the impracticality of the whole AS system.

It is only really suited to very able candidates, and it is too expensive to staff. The forecast made not only by HMC, but by other teaching associations in both the maintained and the independent sectors, that candidates would vote with their feet has turned out to be wholly accurate.

Your leader concludes that the government need look no further than to the broadening solutions proposed by Professor Gordon Higginson. This is too simplistic an approach. Since the rejection of the Higginson proposals, a great deal of constructive work has gone into the preparation of alternative proposals which would both preserve what is best in A levels and yet provide a broader "intermediate" course which would be really suitable for a wide range of ability.

The same could be said of the extensive work being done on vocational (rather than academic) routes to higher education. Furthermore, it would be strange if any future proposal were to overlook the striking recommendations made by the Howie committee in Scotland.

These represent a serious attempt to build bridges between the "British" tradition and those of other European countries, and were based on more detailed and open research than that which preceded both the introduction of AS levels and the armchair thinking which lies behind your leader.

Yours faithfully,
DOMINIC MILROY OSB,
Ampleforth College, York.
August 20.

From Professor P. D. J. Weitzman

Sir, Your table (August 21), "Sixty of the best state schools", implies a rank order of A-level achievement, though one seriously hopes it will not be misconstrued as the 60 best state

school A-level performers. Any such "comparative" table needs to compare like with like. For the purpose of university admission, Ucas (Universities Central Council on Admissions) calculates the score for no more than three A-level passes. Thus, assigning ten points to an A grade, the maximum possible score is 30.

The school to emerge top in your table was quoted as having an Ucas score average of 28, but I suspect that this is not calculated on a three A-level basis. If there were 89 candidates and the overall pass rate was 94 per cent, a simple calculation shows that almost every A-level pass would have to be at grade A. While this is theoretically possible, any report of a school whose A-level candidates either scored A grades or failed is highly suspect.

What is probably the case is that your average scores include candidates with four or more A levels. Additionally, passes at AS level have been incorporated as "extra points" — not how Ucas determines scores.

Unless average scores relate to a fixed, defined basis across all schools, the value of any apparent ranking order is undermined. While not disputing the achievements of the "top" schools, your comparative data may be misleading.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID WEITZMAN
(Assistant Director),
Cardiff Institute of Higher Education,
Llandaff Centre,
Western Avenue, Cardiff.

From Mr D. E. P. Hughes

Sir, As well as being expensive to timetable, AS levels are not well known in higher education. Most important, two AS levels are more demanding than a single A level. An AS is not half an A level; it is more like two thirds.

The additional burden of tackling two AS rather than one A level should be recognised by increasing the points score. I suggest that instead of the present 5,4,3,2,1 scale for A,B,C,D,E grades at AS level, the grades should be worth 7,5,4,3,2.

Two grade Bs at AS level would then be equivalent to a single grade A at A level. One A level and three AS

levels would give a similar maximum to the present three A level pattern.

Yours faithfully,
PETER HUGHES,
5 Woodbank Drive, Porthill,
Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
August 21.

From Mr Howard Goldsobel

Sir, There is a radical solution to the worrying imbalance in demand between the arts and sciences (report, August 21), at least so far as entry into higher education is concerned: convert the student loan into a bursary for all those who enrol on and complete approved science courses.

As subject orientation at higher-education level much depends on choices made at 16, any solution will necessarily take two or more years to bite. Nevertheless, the introduction of a sciences bursary would immediately harness market forces (and parental pressure) in the redress process.

Yours faithfully,
HOWARD GOLDSOBEL,
18 Russell Road, Moor Park,
Northwood, Middlesex.
August 24.

From the President of the Society of Education Officers

Sir, How sad that the cynics should seek to attribute this year's improved A-level results to easier papers and soft marking. Might it not be that the improvements owe something to the efforts of the students and their teachers?

Might not the platform of GCSE, lessons learned about teaching methodology from TVEI (technical and vocational education initiative), and the motivating effect of enhanced coursework and modular syllabuses all have had a contribution to make?

Of course we need to analyse trends and the factors which underlie them, but let us also be prepared to give credit where it may be due. Is the occasional word of praise really such a risk?

Yours faithfully,
KEITH ANDERSON, President,
Society of Education Officers,
20 Bedford Way, WC1.
August 21.

EC directives

From Mr Peter Beazley, MEP for Bedfordshire South (European People's Party (Conservative))

Sir, Mr Brian Falk (letter, August 20) appears to neglect the vital role which the European Parliament plays in the European legislative process.

The European Commission automatically consults all interested parties from EC member states before issuing its draft legislation. It has to be submitted to the appropriate committee of the European Parliament at the same time as it is presented to the members of the European Council.

The committee can if necessary and often does call for a special hearing of experts and representative bodies affected by that legislation. It can also call for a consultative meeting with the Council of Ministers before completion of the legislative process. The European Council then takes its decision.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. BEAZLEY,
Ratton, Eastbourne, East Sussex.
August 21.

Cameras at Proms

From Mrs Myra Brown

Sir, The Promenaders hit the nail on the head last night when they asked the orchestra: "Do the cameras get up your nose?"

I have been a regular at the Proms over many years and have never been so irritated by the encroachment of the TV cameras — there were eight of them.

Until this year I have only been aware of four cameras operating discreetly. Now there are three on the platform whirling about, another two among the Promenaders with bright, distracting lights and a further three people moving about operating two cameras between the Promenaders and the platform.

I can see no improvement in the TV coverage of these concerts since the proliferation of cameras. This is another example of extravagant and unnecessary expense.

Will the day come I wonder when there is no longer room for a live audience for the Proms — the cameras will have taken over?

Yours faithfully,
MYRA BROWN,
33 Haldane Road, SW6.
August 18.

Cost of shooting grouse

From Mr Roy Cole

Sir, How far a cry it is from Mr Jamie Hepburn-Wright's long catalogue of expenses for the moors (letter, August 22) to the old and simple tag, if anyone remembers it: "Up goes a guinea, bang goes sixpence, down comes half-a-crown."

Yours etc,
ROY COLE,
21 Berehurst, Borevere Lane,
Alton, Hampshire.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

Architecture

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Robert Walpole, 1681; Earl of Orford, statesman; Houghton, Norfolk, 1676; Joseph Michel Montgolfier, balloonist; Annan, France, 1740; Antoine Lavoisier, chemist, Paris, 1743; Albert Prince Consort, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, 1819; John Buchan, 1st Baron Tweedsmuir, governor-general of Canada 1935-40, novelist, Perth, 1875; Christopher Isherwood, novelist, Highgate, London, 1904.

DEATHS: Louis-Philippe, king of the French 1830-38, Clarendon, Surrey, 1850; Lon Chaney, film actor, 1930; Frank Harris, writer, Nice, 1931; Ralph Vaughan Williams, composer, London, 1958; Paul McCartney, actor, Hollywood 1976; Sir Francis Chichester, yachtsman, circumnavigated the world 1966-67, Plymouth, 1972; Charles Lindbergh, first to fly solo across the Atlantic non-stop, Hartford, Conn., 1974; Charles Boyer, actor, 1978.

55th Cruise landed in Britain, Julius Caesar.

Defeat of the French by Edward III at Crécy, 1346.

Church news

The Ven Michael Frederick Gear, Archdeacon of Chester, has been appointed Bishop Suffragan of Doncaster, in succession to the Right Rev W.M.D. Persson, who will be resigning on December 31. The Rev John Rose-Casmore, Rector of Tidworth, Ludgershall and Fabersham (Salisbury) is to retire as from September 30.

marriage

DR W.P.R. Mitchell
and **Miss C.D. Laughon**
The engagement is announced between William, son of the late Mr W. Mitchell and of Mrs Mitchell, of Manchester, and Charlotte, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs D.S. Laughon, of Penn, Buckinghamshire.

Mr N.M. Patrick
and **Miss P.J. Hutchinson**
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, younger son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Patrick, of Rochdale, Lancashire, and Philippa, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Hutchinson, of Delgaty, Co Wicklow, Ireland.

Mr G.R.L. Spackman
and **Miss E.T. Rowe**
The engagement is announced between Giles, son of Colonel and Mrs Anthony Spackman, of Waterfield, West Sussex, and Elizabeth, elder daughter of Mrs Michael Bawn and the late Mr John Rowe, of Bradford Peverell, Dorset.

Mr E.D.C. Thornton
and **Miss C.A. Callum**
The engagement is announced between Edmund, younger son of Mr and Mrs Gerald Thornton, of London, SE19, and Charlotte, younger daughter of Dr and Mrs William Callum, of Tonbridge, Kent.



BY SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

He also called for better arts and crafts teaching in prisons, and for materials to be more freely available. The largest work of art in the exhibition, a mural 60 feet by 15 feet, was made by two prisoners who had to beg the paints from other parts of the prison. "Shortage of funds in the prison service has meant that the number of prisons, particularly in the south east, have closed their art departments, which is tragic," Judge Tumin said.

1991-2 Bar Vo

PARTS of the Department of
Employment headquarters in
"radical social housing in the
country."

Architects Whitehall in Marsham Street, Westminster, would be retained in a twentieth-century garden folies in one of a series of schemes for the site commissioned by *Building Design magazine* (Marcus Birney writes).

A group of architects was invited to suggest public usage for the site rather than replacement with more speculative office blocks.

Ron Hoxon, architect of the Imagination building in north London, suggests an apolitical electronic forum with video screens providing contact with MPs. Landscape architects Whitelaw Turkington argue that the site should continue the tradition of

COHOP. Architects argue that during the existence of the DOB, the quality of urban life has eroded, and environmental problems have grown in their seriousness. "Aiming to develop a polemic on urban life they propose to retain parts of the DOB in skeletal form grafted on to a centre for environmental research."

The president of Les Halles, the former Paris food market is likely to explore, though the concept developed there of shops and offices in sunken courtyards beneath the street level public garden might be the ideal substitute for the Marsham Street subterranean

DEATH

DEATHS

DEATHS

<p>COLEBOURN - On August 28th 1992, Commander Cyril Colebourn, aged 78, died at Nuneaton, peacefully aged 79 years. Funeral Service at Nuneaton, on Tuesday September 1st at 11.00am. Burial in the churchyard. Flowers may be sent to D.S. Devall 0523 622222. The Crematorium, Wemphoot House, The Green, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV35 9EF.</p>	<p>GOODMAN - On August 28th 1992, peacefully in hospital, after a long illness, Mrs. Margaret Goodman, nee Bruford, beloved wife of the late Mr. John Goodman, aged 70 years, died. She was the dearly loved mother of Carol, Fiona and Geoffrey. She was also the mother of Catherine and Martin. The funeral will take place in the churchyard.</p>
<p>CURREY - On August 24th 1992, at home in Bath, after a brave fight against cancer. Rosemary, very dear wife of Neville, loving mother of David, John, Peter, Robert and Natasha. Requiem Mass at St John's, Bath, on Friday August 28th at 10am. Family flowers only, but the Cancer Relief MacMillan Fund may be sent to Jollys Funeral Directors, 7 Windsor Place, Upper Bristol Road, Bath, BA2 9EJ.</p>	<p>KEATING - On August 23rd 1992, tragically in a car accident, Natasha Penelope Keating, aged 22 years, the much loved daughter of Raymond and Donald Keating, nee O'Connell, died. She was the daughter of Oliver, Roy, Giles and David. She was also the daughter of the Virgin, Evesham, Oxon at 2.30 pm on Friday August 28th. The funeral will be held at 11.00am. Donations to RUSPA Road Safety Division, Cannon Road, Birmingham, B6 6BS, Queensway, Birmingham, B1 3AB.</p>
<p>MATFIELD - On August 28th 1992, peacefully in hospital, after a long illness, Mrs. Margaret Matfield, nee Bruford, beloved wife of the late Mr. John Matfield, aged 70 years, died. She was the dearly loved mother of Carol, Fiona and Geoffrey. She was also the mother of Catherine and Martin. The funeral will take place in the churchyard.</p>	<p>MAXWELL CRICHTON - On August 28th 1992, peacefully in hospital, after a long illness, Mrs. Margaret Maxwell Crichton, nee Bruford, beloved wife of the late Mr. John Maxwell Crichton, aged 70 years, died. She was the dearly loved mother of Carol, Fiona and Geoffrey. She was also the mother of Catherine and Martin. The funeral will take place in the churchyard.</p>

DEATHS

DEATHS

RICHARDS - On August 18th, at his home in Barry, South Glamorgan, Barry Wyndham F.R.C.Psych., aged 78, must have been shocked by his wife Mollie, Geraldine and Vivienne, Funnell and Wynne, and his children, Wendy, Stephen and Christopher, 3 pm at Corychurch Crematorium, Bridgeton, Glamorgan. Burial at St. Agatha's, A.C. Adams & Son, The Rectory, 11 Gladstone Road, Barry, South Glamorgan CF6 2NA. No funeral by request. Donations to Cymdeithas Ffynnon Life Care Trust, Corychurch Road, Gellifran, Barry.

THORP - On August 20th, 1994, peacefully, Arthur James Thorp, 76, the late husband of Mrs. Margaret Thorp, died at his home, 141, Llantrisant Road, Llantrisant, Glamorgan. A much loved father and grandfather. Burial at St Margaret's Church, Amgwrth, on Thursday August 25th, 1994, at 11.30 am.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

HILL - Edward, 1951-1994. A much loved husband with love and gratitude.

SNOW - On 26th August 1994, Michael Edmund, 66, a loving member of my family and friend, died peacefully at home.

LEGAL NOTICES

C TRIST GRAPHICS LIMITED IN LIQUIDATION
TAKE NOTICE THAT I, David John Thomas, of 10, The Terrace, 8, Co. Torrington House, 6, Llantrisant, Glamorgan, former of A.L. LIMP, was appointed Liquidator of C TRIST GRAPHICS Limited by a Resolution of the Members of the said Company, passed on 26th August 1994, and that the said Company is now in Liquidation. Dated 26th August 1994.
David John Thomas - Liquidator

GREENGLASS ASSOCIATES LTD
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the said company is now in Liquidation and that the said company is now in Liquidation.

IN MEMORIAM -
PRIVATE

[illegible]

Prizes

(T); O E W Campbell (M); J I Adams (L); I J Hitching (M)

The Bar Association for Commerce, Finance and Industry Prize for the best performance in the Commercial Practice Module

Criminal Assessment: A N M Wales (G)

The Lawrence Kingsley Prize for Drafting

R C W Brown (L)

The Wilfred Parker Prize for Evidence, Civil Litigation and Criminal Litigation

K J Farrelly (M)

A Gilling (J); F Mashood (L); R K Penrycook (M); P A Prichard (H); M C Reed (T); S Burt (T); L J Borman (L); M P Epstein (M); N J Frith (G); M R Gifford (L); D H Girdle (L); A W Jones (L); J P Keating (M); M A Quest (Q); A W Jones (L); N J N Alves (M); D E Flood (L); T J Ridge (L); J A Smith (L); M Gentle (D); S Ryden (M); S M Woolfe (L); M J Wright (L); J Hepburn (L); M O'Brien (L); D W Mullins (L); J M Kelly (L); C A Allred (L); Z S Greenway (L); R M Nunn (N); N A McEneaney (L); C Carter (C); R B R Layne (L); D M MacFarlane (L); R Allen (L); B H Butler (G); C E Carrigan (L); M W Ramsden (L); C Harvey (M); D Evans (M); C Storer (L); C Chao (M); L J Osborne (L); S B Dwyer (L); J Murphy (L); A O'Connell (L); A Golan (M); R E James (L); J Blackmore (L); J A O'Hara (L); R Lal (L); G Culbert (H); C E Fotheringham (L); J Blackmore (L); J A O'Hara (L); K Joshi (L); Z C P Farrar (L); Dwyer (L); P McGillicuddy (L); A Samuels (L); T J Francis (M); H D Francis (L); C G Thomas (M); R J Berryville (L); N Dutta (L); M J O'Sullivan (L); M P Foster (L); J Murphy (M); M P Neave (L); J A O'Hara (L); A Mashood (J); J A Smith (L); M D Griffiths (L); Z S Greenway (L); R Hogan (L); S J Evans (L); D E R Parman (L); M H Strumpher (L).

PERSONAL APPEARS IN LIFE & TIMES

SECTION - PAGE 9

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 14

ROTSCHE

(b) The little auk of the Arctic, a later form of *rotge*, but the precise source is not clear: "The little Auk, or Common Rotche, is only a winter visitor to the

Islands."

(b) The blind mole-rat, *Spalax typhlus*, short for Russian dialect *schenok zemnoi* "puppy of earth": "Some are devoid of the awricle, as the mole, the zemni-rat, the mole-rat."

BUND

(b) Erratic, random, from the Latin adjective *errandus* wandering to and fro, *errare* to wander: "With your errand guesses, veering to all points of the literary compass."

POTAGERIE

(a) Growing herbs or vegetables collectively, a kitchen or herb garden, from the French *potager* pot-herbs or kitchen-plants collectively: "Practical Kitchen Gardener, or, a New and Entire System of Directions for Meloury, Kitchen-Garden, and Potageric."

GERIE

(a) Growing herbs or vegetables collectively, a kitchen or herb garden, from the French *potageris* pot-herbs or kitchen-plants collectively: "Practical Kitchen Gardiner, or, a New and Entire System of Directions for Meloury, Kitchen-Garden, and Potagerie."

MARRIAGES

EDGINS
1992
Brya
Hust
Cath

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, *Survey of Current Business*, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2

DEATHS

and Shirley age
husband of D

father of Simon, James and Nicholas. Family funeral at St Just-in-Rossland, Cornwall, on Thursday August 27th. No flowers, but donations if desired to St Just Church and/or the First Air Ambulance Service Trust, West Down, Delabole, Cornwall PL33 9DY. A Memorial Service will be held on a later date

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

Kingston La

OBITUARIES

MALCOLM ANSON

Malcolm Anson, chairman of Imperial Tobacco and later chairman of Wessex Water Authority, died on August 13 in a swimming accident in the Seychelles aged 68. He was born in Bristol on April 23, 1924.

MALCOLM Anson had two successful business careers in very different sectors. During his long period with the Imperial Tobacco Group he rose to be chairman and then, after removal from this position, he quickly transferred to the very different world of the Wessex Water Authority. He was successful in helping to prepare Wessex Water for the privatisation that happened shortly after he completed his five-year term as chairman in 1987.



After Winchester, military service and a distinguished academic performance at Trinity, Oxford, Malcolm Anson joined in 1947 the then Imperial Tobacco Company of Great Britain and Ireland. It was a predictable step as his father, Sir Wilfred Anson, was at the time deputy chairman. However his wit, wisdom, judgment and likeability quickly ensured his progress on his own merits and he

GENERAL KLEMENS RUDNICKI

General Klemens Rudnicki, DSO, Polish war hero, died in London on August 12 aged 95. He was born in Zydaczow on March 28, 1897.



KLEMENS Rudnicki described himself well in his 1974 memoirs as the "last of the warhorses". After some brave but inadequate cavalry charges against invading German armoured cars in 1939, he quickly realised that European warfare would from then on be mechanised. Yet Rudnicki remained to the end of his life the quintessential cavalry officer: courteous, attached to an almost regimental code of honour, a loyal friend, a man of great dignity and some dash.

During the first world war as a young soldier in the Austro-Hungarian army, he was wounded in the hand. This did not deter him from continuing with a military career and in independent Poland he quickly gained the command of a light cavalry squadron fighting against Red Army units. By the age of 24 Rudnicki was already a veteran of two wars. He was appointed to the army staff college as a lecturer on tactics.

The German invasion of Poland saw Rudnicki, then a colonel, as regimental commander of the ninth Lancers. Equipped with precious few anti-tank guns, their position constantly betrayed by German spotter planes, the Lancers had little chance against the sophisticated blitzkrieg machinery of the Germans. The failure of cavalry against a modern mobile army, remembered Rudnicki, was "one of our greatest disillusiones". Having hidden the regimental colours, Rudnicki linked up with the Polish underground resistance and started to smuggle intelligence reports abroad to General Wladyslaw Sikorski. On a clandestine intelligence gathering mission to Soviet occupied Lwow - in what was later to become the western Ukraine - he was arrested by the NKVD, the Soviet secret police. His subsequent odyssey was typical for many Poles: deportation to Siberia, unexpected freedom and army service for the Allies in Persia, Iraq, Palestine, Egypt, fighting in Italy and a

sands of Poles held captive in the Soviet Union. In 1941 Rudnicki joined Anders' general staff and travelled with the army to Teheran and, in 1943, joined up with other Polish units in Cairo. By the time that the Poles invaded Italy, Rudnicki had been temporarily transformed into an infantryman. He was the deputy commander of an infantry division that charged courageously up Phantom Ridge and St Angelo Hill at Monte Cassino. During the battle of Ancona he was commander, and won the Distinguished Service Order. Rudnicki's troops went on to liberate Bologna. He then flew to the western front and led Polish units as they occupied Wilhelmshaven and accepted the surrender of the Germans.

ARTHUR PROPPER

Arthur Propper, CMG, MBE, civil servant, died on July 30 aged 81. He was born on August 3, 1910.

WHEN Harold Macmillan decided to try to take Britain into Europe, agriculture was one of the major obstacles. Arthur Propper was sent to Brussels in 1962 to act as the linkman for the ministry of agriculture. This was no easy task. Both the permanent secretary in the ministry and the president of the National Farmers Union of the day were fervent anti-marketers and no demand for special treatment for Britain was too outrageous for them. But the minister of agriculture - the late Christopher Soames - and the team sent to negotiate Britain's entry wanted to find acceptable terms. Caught between these currents, it was Arthur Propper's job to represent to the six original members of the European Community what it was Britain really needed if public opinion was to support entry, and to report back on their reactions. His cool appreciation of what the Six would swallow, while not always welcome to the negotiating team, was invaluable intelligence. His qualities of personality and intellect enabled him to retain the confidence of all sides. A deal on agriculture probably could have been struck but de Gaulle's veto intervened and Propper returned to London.

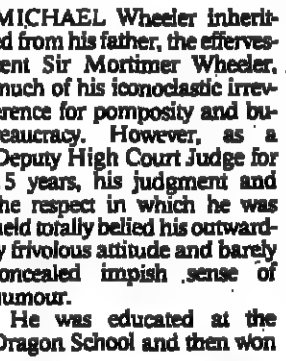


Like many of his generation, Arthur Propper became a civil servant because of the second world war. Educated at Owens School and Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he took a first in history, his early career was in advertising. But with the outbreak of the war, he was drafted into the ministry of economic warfare and later transferred to the ministry of food. He became an established civil servant in the merged ministry of agriculture, fisheries and food and was a natural choice to represent the ministry in Brussels. On his return in 1964 he

He suffered a long series of illnesses with tremendous dignity and fortitude. Throughout them all he had the unfailing care and support of Erica, his wife for more than 50 years. She shared his cultural interests with him to the full. They made a wonderful, cultivated partnership. He will be sorely missed by her, by his daughter and family and also by a wide circle of friends.

MICHAEL WHEELER

Michael Wheeler, TD, QC, specialist in company law, died on August 7, aged 77. He was born on January 8, 1915.



MICHAEL Wheeler inherited from his father, the effervescent Sir Mortimer Wheeler, much of his iconoclastic irreverence for pomposity and bureaucracy. However, as a Deputy High Court Judge for 15 years, his judgment and the respect in which he was held totally belied his outwardly frivolous attitude and barely concealed impish sense of humour.



He was educated at the Dragon School and then won a scholarship to Rugby before going to Oxford to read Law at Christ Church. He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1938. Before the second world war, he had already joined the Territorial Army and trained as a gunner. He helped his father in 1939 to raise the 48th Light Anti-Aircraft Battery at Enfield, whose first recruits included the present Lord Goodman. The 48th consisted mainly of lawyers

Don Lang, trombonist, rock and roll vocalist and band leader, died of cancer at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, aged 67. He was born on January 19, 1925.

DON LANG



DON Lang's musical career began in the dying years of the big band swing era, but he was to achieve his greatest fame during the emergence of rock and roll in the Fifties when his Frantic Five ensemble dominated the popular television show *Sir Five Special*, forerunner of *Top of the Pops*. Although the aptly named Frantic Five - they were an exceedingly energetic group on stage - accompanied many rock and roll stars of the day, such as Tommy Steele and Cliff Richard, when they appeared on the programme, they notched up some impressive rock and roll successes of their own with Lang himself doing the vocals.

In May 1958 his recording of "Which Doctor" reached No 5 in the British pop music charts and remained there for 11 weeks. A year earlier the success of his rendering of Chuck Berry's "anti-classroom" hit "School Day" prevented the composer's version from climbing any higher than No 16 for his debut in what was then called the British Hit Parade. "School Day" was to cause mild nervous tremors among educationists both sides of the Atlantic because its rallying cry "Hail, Hail, Rock and Roll" echoed down many a college corridor; the gentle protest lyrics suggesting that pupils preferred playing the juke-box to dipping pens in inkwells. Another of Lang's vocal hits of the period was entitled "Cloud-burst" which first appeared in the charts at No 16 in November 1955, and was to make two brief reappearances shortly

Lang, whose original name was Gordon Langhorn, grew up in his native Halifax; his musical career began with the double bass but he was changed to the trombone, moving to London where, in 1949, he was to join the well-known swing band of the day led by Vic Lewis. Lewis freely based his style on his big band idol Stan Kenton who favoured massive brass emphasis in his "progressive jazz" arrangements. Langhorn was a featured soloist, first in Lewis's expanded orchestra for his ambitious "music for modern" tour, and also for the reduced dance band format that was to follow. Langhorn was one of a distinguished list of ex-Lewis players who were to succeed in fronting their own bands others on the list were Ken Thorne, Johnny Keating, Stan Reynolds, Ronnie Scott and Tubby Hayes. Langhorn left Lewis for a spell with the equally popular Ken Mackintosh Orchestra during which he co-wrote one of the band's biggest swing hits "The Creep". By the mid-fifties big bands were becoming not only less popular but

NORMAN DANIEL

Norman Alexander Daniel, CBE, formerly of the British Council, died on August 11 aged 73. He was born on May 8, 1919.

NORMAN Daniel was a British Council representative as well as a historian of medieval literature and of inter-cultural relations. Educated at Queen's College, Oxford, he became a PhD of Edinburgh University

after the second world war and, in 1947, assistant director of the British Institute, Basra. He was assistant representative of the British Council in Baghdad (1948) and in Beirut (1952). In 1960 he became deputy representative for Scotland, and in 1962 representative in Khartoum. He was cultural attaché and then cultural councillor to the

British Embassy in Cairo, 1971-79. He was appointed CBE in 1969, and CBE in 1974, in particular in recognition of his work for Britain during the Arab-Israeli wars. His publications included *Islam and the West*, 1960, and several other works on this subject: *The Cultural Barrier*, 1975, and *Herods and Saracens*, 1984. He also wrote, pseudonymously, *Revolution in Iraq*, concerning the events of 1958.

SIR EDWIN ARROWSMITH

Sir Edwin Arrowsmith, KCMG, former governor of the Falkland Islands, has died aged 83. He was born on May 23, 1909.

EDWIN Arrowsmith gave 28 years service to the blind after his retirement from a distinguished career in the service of the Commonwealth. In July 1964 he was appointed to the council of St Dunstan's, the organisation working for men and women blinded in the Services. Arrowsmith had recently retired from the posts of governor and commander-in-chief of the Falkland Islands and high commissioner of the

AUGUST 26 ON THIS DAY 1933

Among those who were deprived by the Nazis of their nationality were Ernst Toller, the playwright and revolutionary; Lion Feuchtwanger, author of the best-seller *Jew Süss*; Wilhelm Pieck, who was to become President of the German Democratic Republic after the war, and Philipp Scheidemann, who had proclaimed the first German Republic in 1918.

NEW ACT OF PERSECUTION

The Ministry of the Interior publishes a first list of 33 persons now abroad who have been deprived of their German nationality under the Act of July 14 for the revocation of naturalisation and the forfeiture of German nationality "because they have injured German interests by conduct conflicting with the duty of loyalty to Reich and nation." Their property has been confiscated.

The 33, most of whom have fled the country to avoid the risks of internment in a concentration camp or other misadventure, include prominent Socialist politicians, pacifists, Communist leaders, and well-known writers. In the list are: Herr Otto Weis, chairman of the now illegal Socialist Party and the last Socialist to speak in the Reichstag; Herr Rudolph Breitscheid, who was leader of the Parliamentary Socialist Party; Herr Philipp Scheidemann, a Socialist and the first Chancellor of the Republic whose refusal to sign the Peace Treaty did not reconcile the patriots to his pacifist and anti-Monarchist views; Herr Heinz Neumann, a former leader of the Communist Party; Herr Wilhelm Pieck, the Communist Parliamentary leader; Herr Lion Feuchtwanger, a book-

which first became known in Germany through the news of its success in America and England; the parities were always irritated when the outer world quoted Herr Feuchtwanger, a Jew, as a foremost representative of German literature.

Herr Heinrich Mann, a brother of Herr Thomas Mann, the Nobel prizewinner, already in 1914 an open satirist of the monarchial times, his post-war works were all written from an advanced Liberal and Democratic angle. Until quite recently Herr Heinrich Mann was president of the Prussian Academy of Literature.

Herr Ernst Toller, a Jew, Communist revolutionary in Bavaria, and dramatist whose plays attracted much attention in England, so that he was in 1925 the guest of honour at a P.E.N. Club dinner in London which was presided over by J.K. Jerome and to which he was bidden welcome by W.B. Yeats.

Dr Kurt Tucholsky, an advanced Liberal and Democratic writer.

Professor Georg Bernhard, a Jew and former Editor of the *Vossische Zeitung*.

Dr Alfred Kerr, the former Dramatic Critic of the *Berliner Tageblatt*.

Dr Friedrich Forster, who sacrificed a professorship at Munich University to pacifist convictions, which drove him into Switzerland during the War; he was for many years a leading member of the German Peace Society.

Professor Ernst Gumbel, a Jew, formerly of Heidelberg University, an unyielding pacifist, who for years kept the students of Heidelberg in commotion by his views about war, and once caused a riot by saying that for him the symbol of war was not a lightly clad maiden preferring laurels of victory, but "one big ump".

Herr Heinz Neumann, a former leader of the Communist Party; Herr Wilhelm Pieck, the Communist Parliamentary leader; Herr Lion Feuchtwanger, a book-

Archaeology

Kingston Lacy dusts down its eccentric Egyptian collection

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ONE of Britain's oldest, yet least known collections of Egyptian antiquities has just gone on display in the unlikely surroundings of Kingston Lacy, the National Trust house in Dorset best known for its superb collection of paintings by Rubens, Velasquez and other masters.

Like the paintings, however, the roomful of limestone stelae, scarabs, and shabti servant figures from tombs were amassed as part of the decoration of the house, by William Bankes, one of the most eccentric and mildly scandalous figures of Regency England.

Born in 1786, he was Byron's "collegiate pastor, master and patron, father of all mischiefs" at

Cambridge: the poet's approbation and Bankes's "Gothick" room decorations at Trinity College have ensured his name some remembrance down the years. Less remarked, however, have been the results of his two expeditions to the Nile in 1815 and 1818.

On the first of these he travelled as a gentleman amateur, but the interest in ancient Egypt that he engendered in him led to a return accompanied by several professional artists to record ruins and views, and Giovanni Belzoni, the most accomplished tomb-robbing of his day, to help build a collection.

The most important and spectacular of his acquisitions, an obelisk

from Philae bearing an hieroglyphic text including the cartouche of Cleopatra, has stood in the gardens at Kingston Lacy since 1839. Together with the accompanying Greek inscription on its plinth, the obelisk text, which Bankes had copied in 1815 and sent to Francois Champollion, was instrumental in helping Champollion to read Egyptian hieroglyphs in 1822, the first major decipherment of an ancient script.

Bankes placed the granite sarcophagus of Amenemope nearby; but as well as pharaohs at the bottom of the garden, he wanted striking objects for the house. "This is the sole surviving English gentleman's collection from the early days, virtually

intact and a monument to the insensitive, even if uninformed judgement of one whose tastes were developed in the refined climate of Regency Britain," said Mr Harry James, former keeper of Egyptian antiquities at the British Museum.

William Bankes spent his last years abroad, having jumped bail after a homosexual encounter with a guardsman, but continued to send back treasures to adorn the house he had already turned into an Italianate palazzo. His Egyptian collections found little favour with his successors, however, and languished in storage until this year.

They have now been assembled in the billiards room, under Mr James's

direction. "There are groups of objects of some importance to Egyptologists," he said.

"They are a neat and comprehensive set of records of private piety, especially the tomb stelae from Deir-el-Medina, the village of the workmen who cut the tombs in the Valley of the Kings."

The stelae, small slabs some two feet high, are carved with scenes of gods and donors: the tomb-maker Perennute makes an offering to the deified Amenophis I, two men named Pyai, probably father and son, offer sculptor's chisels to the falcon god and Thoth, scribe of the gods, and Ramesses II offers wine to the goddesses Hathor and Mut.

Car makers braced for cuts and closures as sales plummet

BY KEVIN EASON, MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

CAR makers are preparing themselves for new job cuts and closures as they face the doubling of Britain's motor trade deficit and the threat of the worst August sales for eight years.

Figures yesterday showed car exports, which have kept British assembly lines busy during the recession, suffered a rapid fall in the second quarter of the year while imports jumped.

The reversal helped to push up the deficit in automotive products to £1.37 billion for the first six months, 121.3 per cent higher than in the first half of last year and worse than the whole of 1991. The second quarter deficit of £834 million was a deterioration of 202 per cent over the April to June figures of last year.

Cars shipped abroad between April and June fell by 18 per cent, leading to a total 11 per cent decline over the first half of the year to 289,333. At the same time, car imports were up 20 per cent in the second quarter and at 509,132 for the first six months are running 14 per cent higher than in the same period of 1991.

The depressing trade figures issued by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders underlined how difficult it is proving to drag the nation's biggest manufacturing sector off the bottom of recession.

Last week Ford put its main Dagenham plant on a three-day week because exports began to falter, adding to the problems of the weak home market. Rover has also started short-time working at its main Longbridge plant at Birmingham for the same reason.

Manufacturers sank their hopes for a revival at home into August, the biggest sales month of the year accounting for almost a quarter of annual domestic registrations. They needed sales to top 400,000 if the industry was to improve, but sales in the first 20 days have struggled to 290,550, just 0.9 per cent above the 287,900 in the first 20 days of August, 1991.

Ford is still predicting the month would end with sales of 365,000, which would be the lowest since 1984 and marginally below the 368,000 of last year.

However, the Retail Motor

Industry Federation, which represents 12,000 dealers, remained optimistic that the industry could hit 380,000, more than last year, still below expectations.

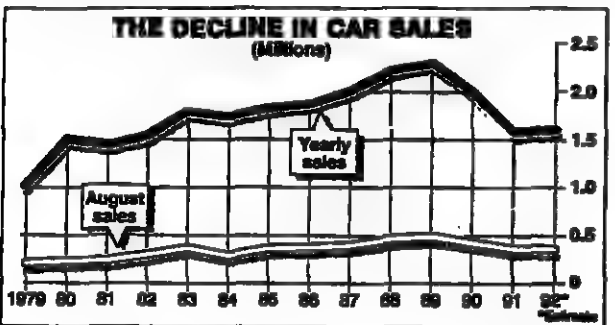
Manufacturers have cut prices and raised the advertising budget for August to a record £50 million to lure customers back. The cost of marketing and financing by some manufacturers has been as much as £450 a car.

Last night manufacturers were counting the cost of throwing so much money into the marketplace for no better reason than August, 1991, which was part of the worst annual sales slump for 50 years. They see little chance of achieving annual sales over 1991's 1.59 million.

A spokesman for Ford, Britain's biggest car company, said: "There is still a lot of uncertainty out there in the marketplace. We all started with high hopes and sales have managed to turn up slightly but we still think that August will be 365,000 and that does not tell us that the industry is staging any sort of dramatic revival."

Vauxhall added: "Everyone is having a tough time. The car industry is an economic indicator and things are not going so well."

There are also about 30,000 cars that may have to be heavily discounted because they must be sold before January 1. These cars are not fitted with catalytic converters. Under European Community legislation, all cars on sale next year must have one.



Jaguar engine, page 2

20,000 ring in to hear royal tape

Continued from page 1

Play the King, an unpopular prime minister opts to play the republican card against the king to distract the public from his dwindling support and the floundering economy. The king, who has waited for decades for the throne, complains about the home-ness and destruction of the environment. The fictional Princess Charlotte is photographed on holiday with another man and after several other mishaps, is forced to leave the family.

Michael Wearing, head of drama series, said: "It promises to be one of the most controversial series we have made and it is probably as a result of excitement in the royal."

But a senior BBC source said plans to adapt the novel for television had been on the cards long before allegations began appearing in newspapers about the Duchess of York and the Princess of Wales. The BBC had been delayed by eight months of wrangling between Mr

Dobbs and Mr Davies who could not agree on the storyline.

Mr Davies said he now had freedom to adapt the novel, adding: "Real-life events seem to be overtaking us. It will be difficult to know what to include." But he promised some distance between the drama and the real royal family. "There will be no lookalikes and certainly no body with ears that stick out."

Battle theme, page 5
Diary, page 10



Martin Bell of the BBC lies wounded after being hit during a mortar attack in Sarajevo. It was his first injury in a career covering 11 wars. He told colleagues: "Okay, I'll survive. I am alive."

Tenacious girl given her new heart at last

BY TIM JONES

A LITTLE girl who lived for seven weeks after doctors said she had just 48 hours left was yesterday given a new heart. Wendy Walker, ten, had clung to life while doctors searched Europe for a replacement organ.

Wendy had amazed doctors and hospital staff with her tenacity as she waited in an intensive care unit for a donor heart to be found.

Colin Hilton, the surgeon who performed the five-hour operation at the Freeman hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, said later that Wendy was in a satisfactory condition. Mr Hilton said: "She is a remarkable fighter. I went on holiday last week and I fully expected her not to be here where I got back."

The hospital gave virtually no details about the donor heart, which came from an Englishman.

Wendy's parents, Peter and Evelyn, had maintained a bedside vigil, praying that she would survive for long enough to have the opera-

tion. Mr Walker, 43, a gas engineer from Longforgan, Dundee, Tayside, had appeared on television pleading for a donor and Wendy was put at the top of the European transplant list.

A spokeswoman for the hospital said: "Wendy has got a hell of a lot of willpower to survive for seven weeks. Her parents were absolutely euphoric when they were told about the operation. It has been a long period of worry for them."

Wendy had lived a normal, healthy life until a virus attacked her heart muscles, leaving her needing a transplant to survive. It was not until Monday that Mr Walker and his wife heard the news that a heart had become available.

Mr Walker said: "When she came out of the operating theatre we were told her feet were nice and warm, where before they were cold. Her eyes are open now and she knows her mum and dad are there for her."

Thousands forced to leave New Orleans

Continued from page 1

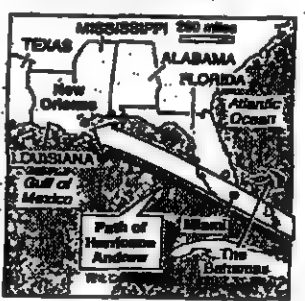
south Miami to prevent access to scavengers from outside the region. About 1,500 National Guardsmen have been deployed as well as an infantry battalion. But in some homes, people armed with shotguns refuse to abandon their possessions.

President Bush flew into southern Miami where he toured damaged areas. He toured an evacuation shelter close to where the eye of Andrew struck. At times, the president's motorcade slowed to a crawl as it negotiated fallen power lines and mangled traffic lights. "My heart

goes out to the people of Florida," Mr Bush said. He promised to do all he can to hasten release of \$50 million in disaster relief funds.

Even though the winds have passed, emergency management officials have told residents not to leave their homes. They gave a warning that hurricane experiences showed that most deaths and injuries come in the aftermath of the storm from power cables, glass, damaged buildings and traffic accidents due to failed traffic lights.

Andrew has taken a devastating environmental toll on the Miami area. "It looks like a plague of locusts has been here," said a spokesman for parks management. At Homestead air force base, every building was either destroyed or damaged said the Pentagon. The 6,500 workers have been told to stay away for at least five days. "Homestead air force base no longer exists," said Toni Tjordan at the Florida Community Affairs Department.



Reserves may be used to shore up sterling

Continued from page 1

for ratification of the treaty, but it also revealed that 21 per cent of respondents did not intend to vote. The L'Espresso poll was carried out by IFOP among a representative sample of 947 people on the electoral register.

A third poll, carried out by Louis Harris for VSD magazine, showed that 33 per cent would vote in favour of the Maastricht treaty and 31 per cent would vote against. A further 36 per cent said either that they did not know how they would vote or that they would not do so.

The survey was carried out by telephone using a representative sample of 944 voters. A previous Louis Harris poll, carried out on July 4 and 5, gave the lobby in favour of the treaty on European unity a 10 per cent lead over those against.

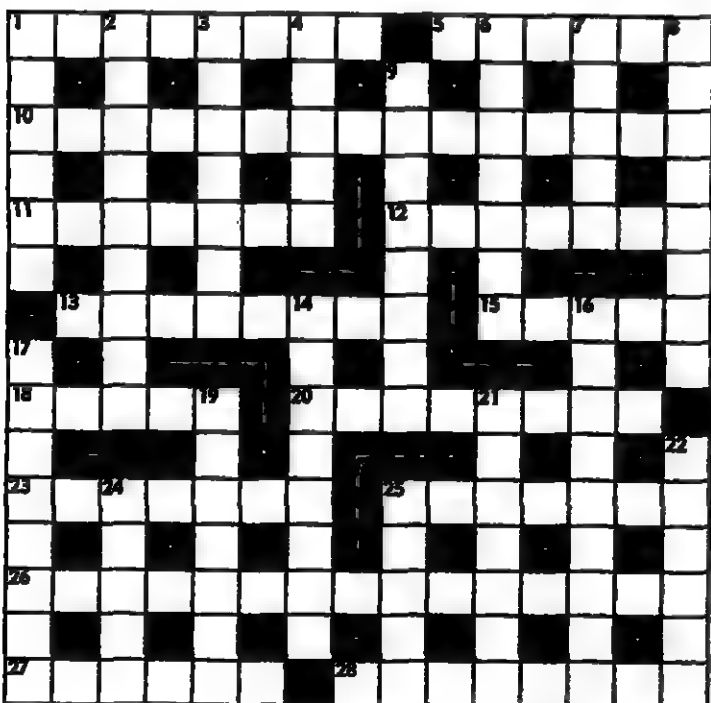
The L'Espresso newspaper will today publish its own survey by the Sofres polling firm. It shows 51 per cent of respondents in favour of the treaty, and 49 per cent against. The firm questioned 1,000 voters between Friday and Monday.

Alan Beith, the Liberal Democrat Treasury spokesman, said yesterday that it was "touch and go" whether an interest rate rise could be averted. He claimed that Mr Major's credibility on the ERM was being undermined because he was too scared to "take on" the Tory rebels calling for Britain's withdrawal. Mr Beith also urged the government to underpin the pound by putting sterling in the narrow band of the ERM, giving the Bank of England independent charge of setting interest rates and dropping Britain's opt-out clause on monetary union.

He argued that the pound was also under pressure because of lack of confidence in Britain's "real economy" and he called for an extra £2 billion to be spent on housing, public building and transport to get the construction industry moving. Mr Beith criticised Labour for lacking a coherent policy and said that it was calling for European co-ordination on interest rates which it knew were impossible to achieve.

Holiday bargains, page 2
Letters, page 11
Maastricht worries, page 15

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,007



ACROSS

- 1 Fruit put in piles in lines (8).
- 5 Waterproof stuff - it's about to be incorporated in a raincoat (6).
- 10 As a court official, I can have dinner disciplined (4-11).
- 11 Broadcast debate about help being turned back (7).
- 12 Ship's doctor right about up (7).
- 13 Bespangled girl rejected advance payment (8).
- 15 Ecstatic about money that's disbursed (5).
- 18 While speaking, adjusts clothing (5).
- 20 Working hard in recession, extracting from niobium the core metal (8).
- 23 Interrupt routines in attempt to make a comeback (7).
- 25 A mule, perhaps - one unsteady on his feet (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 19,006

JUMPY WINOBA
U A R I E R
CAMBERT VISTA
K B E E P F
L A L L O A S U A R L O A F
L E L U E K I
P R E A R R A N G E M E N T
A Y G E G I
B A R R A G E B A L L O O N
S C E N D O P I T T A
M E S S I N G
S K U L L P R I V I L E G E
S C I A R L A S
A M K W A R D T A G A L O O

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 22 per cent of the competitors at the 1992 Birmingham regional final of The Times InterCity Crossword Championships.

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- ROYCHE**
a. The escapement of a watch
b. The small arctic ark
c. The scissors in Cumberland
- ZEMNI**
a. The castrated porter in a baroque
b. The blind mole-cat
c. A provincial council
- ERRABUND**
a. A fascist secret society
b. Wandering
c. An obsolete Basque coin
- POTAGE**
a. A kitchen garden
b. A soup-making
c. Alcoholism

Answers on page 12

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
Dorset, Hampshire & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Avon, Somerset	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Northamptonshire, Cambridgeshire	708
West Midlands & Shropshire	709
Shropshire, Herefordshire & Worcestershire	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincolnshire & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Pembrokeshire	714
Southwest & Cornwall	715
N.W. England	716
W & S. Yorkshire & Wales	717
N.E. England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S.W. Scotland	720
Central Scotland	721
Edinburgh, Lothian & Borders	722
Grampian & E. Highlands	723
N.W. Scotland	724
Orkney, Shetland & Islands	725
N.Ireland	727

Weatherfax is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadwork information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE	731
C. London (within N & S Circs)	732
M-ways/roads M4-M1	733
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford	734
M-ways/roads Dartford-T-M25	735
M-ways/roads M25-M4	736
M25 London Orbital only	737
National motorways	738
West Country	739
Wales	740
North Wales	741
East Angles	742
North-west England	743
South-east England	744
Scotland	745
AA Roadwatch is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.	

Cloudy, apart from a few sunny intervals in the East. Showers in the West will spread quickly eastwards. Some showers will be heavy and could be prolonged. Brighter but still cloudy conditions will spread across the country during the afternoon, before rain reaches the West during the evening. Blustery, with winds freshening in the North later. Outlook: unsettled, with showers or longer spells of rain.

WEDNESDAY: 1-4 thunder, 5-8 drizzle to fog, 9-11 drizzle, 12-14 rain, 15-17 rain, 18-20 rain, 21-23 rain, 24-26 rain, 27-29 rain, 30-31 rain.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain
Alps	12	10	10	0
Algeria	18	10	10	0
Andorra	18	10	10	0
Armenia	18	10	10	0
Austria	12	10	10	0
Azerbaijan	18	10	10	0
Bahamas	28	10	10	0
Bahrain	32	10	10	0
Bangladesh	28	10	10	0
Barbados	28	10	10	0
Belarus	12	10	10	0
Belgium	12	10	10	0
Belize	28	10	10	0
Benin	28	10	10	0
Bermuda	28	10	10	0
Bhutan	12	10	10	0
Bolivia	12	10	10	0
Bosnia	12	10	10	0
Brazil	28	10	10	0
Brunei	28	10	10	0
Bulgaria	12	10	10	0
Burkina Faso	28	10	10	0
Burundi	28	10	10	0
Cambodia	28	10	10	0
Cameroon	28	10	10	0
Canada	12	10	10	0
Cape Verde	28	10	10	0
Chad	28	10	10	0
Chile	12	10	10	0
China	12	10	10	0
Cote d'Ivoire	28	10	10	0
Croatia	12	10	10	0
Cuba	28	10	10	0
Cyprus	28	10	10	0
Czechia	12	10	10	0
Dominica	28	10	10	0
Dominican Republic	28	10	10	0
DRC	28	10	10	0
Ecuador	12	10	10	0
Egypt	28	10	10	0
El Salvador	28	10	10	0
Equatorial Guinea	28	10	10	0
Eritrea	28	10	10	0
Estonia	12	10	10	0
Ethiopia	28	10	10	0
Faroe Islands	12	10	10	0
Fiji	28	10	10	0
Finland	12	10	10	0
France	12	10	10	0
French Polynesia	28	10	10	0
Gabon	28	10	10	0
Gambia	28	10	10	0
Georgia	12	10	10	0
Germany	12	10	10	0
Ghana	28	10	10	0
Greece	12	10	10	0
Greenland	12	10	10	0
Guatemala	28	10	10	0
Guinea	28	10	10	0
Guinea-Bissau	28	10	10	0
Haiti	28	10	10	0
Honduras	28	10	10	0
Hungary	12	10	10	0
Iceland	12	10	10	0
India	28	10	10	0
Indonesia	28	10	10	0
Iran	28	10	10	0
Ireland	12	10	10	0
Israel	28	10	10	0
Italy	12	10	10	0
Jamaica	28	10	10	0
Japan	12	10	10	0
Jordan	28	10	10	0
Kazakhstan	12	10	10	0
Kenya	28	10	10	0
Korea	12	10	10	0
Kosovo	12	10	10	0
Kuwait	28	10	10	0
Kyrgyzstan	12	10	10	0
Laos	28	10	10	0
Latvia	12	10	10	0
Lebanon	28	10	10	0
Lesotho	28	10	10	0
Lithuania	12	10	10	0
Luxembourg	12	10	10	0
Macao	28	10	10	0
Macedonia	12	10	10	0
Madagascar	28	10	10	0
Mali	28	10	10	0
Maldives	28	10	10	0
Malta	28	10	10	0
Mauritania	28	10	10	0
Mauritius	28	10	10	0
Mexico	28	10	10	0
Moldova	12	10	10	0
Mongolia	12	10	10	0
Montenegro	12	10	10	0
Morocco	28	10	10	0
Mozambique	28	10	10	0
Myanmar	28	10	10	0
Nicaragua	28	10	10	0
Niger	28	10	10	0
Nigeria	28	10	10	0
North Macedonia	12	10	10	0
Oman	28	10	10	0
Pakistan	28	10	10	0
Panama	28	10	10	0
Paraguay	28	10	10	0
Peru	12	10	10	0
Philippines	28	10	10	0
Poland	12	10	10	0
Portugal	12	10	10	0
Romania	12	10	10	0
Russia	12	10	10	0
Rwanda	28	10	10	0
Saudi Arabia	28	10	10	0
Senegal	28	10	10	0
Serbia	12	10	10	0
Seychelles	28	10	10	0
Sierra Leone	28	10	10	0
Singapore	28	10	10	0
Slovakia	12	10	10	0
Slovenia	12	10	10	0
South Africa	28	10	10	0
South Korea	12	10	10	0
Spain	12	10	10	0
Sri Lanka	28	10	10	0</

STOCK MARKET

This put renewed pressure on the pound, which briefly

The news coincided with a 29 per cent drop in net income to £637 million in the first half after the company dropped

this autumn. Grand Metropolitan, the drinks and food group, tumbled 34p to 378p, also after issuing a warning indicating that pre-tax profits

The one bright spot in the drinks sector was Gibbs Mew, the USM-quoted regional brewer, which jumped 15p to 198p after a bid approach from Brierley Investments, headed by Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand business-
man. He plans to offer 200p a share and already owns a stake in the company. But the Gibbs Mew board, accounting for 59 per cent of the shares, rejected the offer.

at more than \$20 billion. There were losses for Commercial Union, 5p to 448p. General Accident, 8p to 409p. Guardian Royal Exchange, 3p to 126p, and Sun Alliance, 7p to 217p. But Royal Insurance, which fell sharply on Monday on suggestions that it had the biggest exposure to America, rallied 3p to 143p.

MICHAEL CLARK

□ **Sydney** — The share market closed at its lowest level in 14 months. The all-ordinaries index fell 22.2 points to 1,517.3, its lowest close since June 28, 1991. (Reuters)

WALL STREET

[illegible]

TEMPUS

Prudent the refinancing may have been, but it was overshadowed by the trading update. The good news was that sales at Pillsbury, the American food subsidiary, were 7 per cent up on a year ago. The bad news was that

Graseby

GRASEBY has changed its spots since it was Cambridge Electronics Industries, and has on the 1992 drawing boards several potentially profitable, and promising, product developments.

The group acquired Tace and Goring Kerr in 1991, and is a leader in the field of identifying foreign objects in food — a growing market under tougher health legislation. Graseby is working on the definitive detection of Semtex, the explosive, while

Dollar earner: Sir Allen Sheppard of GrandMet

But some profits setback is inevitable, and £9.5 million against £10.3 million would leave a maintained 10.9p dividend thinly covered. At 133p, down 34p, the 10.9 per cent yield lends some support to a share that will shine once economies improve.

THERE must be a touch of sympathy for Bridon, the Doncaster manufacturer of wire rope products, which has quite innocently been caught

Ironically, it is lower redundancy costs of £500,000 in the past six months — compared

are behind the gains in pre-tax profits and boosted earnings per share to 1.3p (0.2p). The interim dividend falls to 1.25p (2.5p) a share. Bridon expects to be one of the last

MONEY MARKETS
Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 92.3 (day's range 92.3-92.4).

[illegible]

OTHER STEERING		300 LAR SPOT RATES	
Argentina (per)	1,968.8-1,971.6	Australia	1,403.1-1,404.0
Australia (dwt)	7,907.2-7,963.7	Brazil (dwt)	9,836.90
Bahian dwt (in)	0.747-0.755	Canada (Com)	2,256.55-2,256.55
Brazil (crude)	9,727.74-9,733.04	Canada	1,189.1-1,189.6
Ceylon (dwt)	0.00-0.00	Denmark	5,445.0-5,450.0
Finland (crude)	7,707.78	France	2,443.4-2,443.60
Grain (crude)	145.27-349.73	Germany	1,404.7-1,405.5
India (dwt)	3.15-3.20	Hong Kong	7,730.7-7,730.8
India (crude)	56.25-56.56	India	1,404.7-1,405.5
Kuwait (crude) KD	0.5765-0.5835	Italy	10,758-10,760
Malay (dwt)	4.25-4.25	Japan	2,443.4-2,443.6
Mexico (per)	6,600-6,200	Japan (Com)	2,256.55-2,256.55
New Zealand (dwt)	3,685.9-3,694.26	Netherlands	1,585.0-1,586.0
North Sea (dwt)	1,184.3-1,184.3	Norway	5,569.0-5,574.0
Singapore (dwt)	3,184.3-3,180	Poland	1,223.1-1,223.5
Africa rand (in)	5,697.7-5,540	Singapore	1,601.0-1,602.0
U.S.A. (dwt)	4.46-5.685	Spain	9,201.91-9,201.91
U.S.A. (crude)	7,275.7-7,363	Sweden	2,144.0-2,140
		Switzerland	2,490-2,520

MONEY RATES (%)						
Base Rates Clearing Banks IO Finance Hse IO_s						
Discount Market Lenses O/nright high 94	Low 7					
Treasury Bills (Overday) 2 mths IO 10% 94	3 mths IO 10%		Selt 2 mths 94 + 3 mths 94 =		Week fixed: 94	
Prime Bank Bill (Dis)	1 mths	3 mths	6 mths	12 mths		
IO-9%	IO-9%	IO-9%	IO-9%	IO-9%		
Storcing Money Rates	IO-10%	IO-10%	IO-10%	IO-10%		
Overnight open 94, close 7	IO-10%	IO-10%	IO-10%	IO-10%		
Local Authority Depos	IO%	N/A	IO%	IO%		
Sterling CD's	IO-10%	IO-10%	IO%	IO%		
Dollar CD's	3.25-3.27	n/a	3.37-3.32	3.47-3.42	IO-10%	
Swiss Franc Swiss CDS:	IO-10%	IO-10%	IO-10%	IO-10%	2.86-3.04	
					IO-10%	

BODG: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Financing. Make-up day: July 31, 1992 Agreed rates
 AGO: 1992 to Sept 22, 1992 Scheme II: 1-37%. Subsequent II & III: 1-46%. Reference rate
 July 1, 1992 to July 31, 1992 Scheme IV & V: 10.189%.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)					
Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Deutsche	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
Dollar	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Swiss Franc	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%
Swiss Franc	7 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%
Swiss Franc	7 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%
Swiss Franc	7 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)			
Bullion: Open \$340.80-341.30	Close \$341.00-341.30	High: \$341.30-341.80	
Low: \$339.50-340.60	Kingsrand: \$340.00-340.60	\$171.00-172.00	
Sovereigns: Old \$78.00-81.00	Silver: 67.50-67.75	New \$81.00-83.00	64.25-64.75
Platinum: \$348.75-617.50	\$175.75-176.75	Palladium: \$85.00-84.00	

Abney Natd 3,200	Comex July 1,766	Legal & Gen 2,320	Rt Br Seal 2,000
Allied-Syeds 3,800	Cm Union 780	Lloyds Bk 1,800	Sirramby 2,100
Anglo W 1,900	Courtauld 373	Mil Card 2,300	Scot & New 499
Anglian Gv 4,700	Eng Chubb 3,700	MEPC 723	Scot Power 7,100
Astorg African 1,000	Engr Const 1,200	Morley Spr 500	Sherrill 1,000
Asi Foods 39	Eurotransit U 421	NTEC 888	Smith Trans 3,000
BAA 611	Fisons 1,600	Natwest Bk 3,900	Steki Trans 1,000
BAT Ind 2,700	Fortis 2,000	Nal Power 2,300	Smelt Inc 2,400
BEY TSE 2,900	GHE 2,100	Nih Was 2,900	Smith Intk 2,600
BIC 1,000	GRU 2,100	P&O 1,000	Smith Withr 1,500
BT 14,000	Gen Acc 514	Pearson 420	SNAP ALH 8,000
BP 3,800	Gen Elec 5,600	Pilkington 1,000	TSB 2,300
BTR 3,800	Glasco 4,000	PowerGen 4,800	Tesco 2,400
Bk of Scot 3,600	Grand Met 12,500	PowerGen 4,800	Thames W 2,800
Bombardier 3,000	Graham 1,000	RMC 1,500	Thorn EMU 3,800
Bass 1,300	HSCB 6,400	RTZ 1,500	Tomkins 364
Blue Circle 1,400	Hanson 8,200	Reed Intl 761	Unic Disc 1,900
Bovis 3,800	Hilliscum 2,100	Rank Org 776	Vodafone 6,500
British Air 2,100	Holdings 1,000	Renold 772	Welcome 4,000
Brit Airways 2,600	Inchcape 982	Reuters 406	Windsor Hk 301
Brit Gas 11,000	Kingsfisher 1,400	Roberts 283	Willis Crnt 2,200
Brit Steel 32,000	LASMO 2,400	Royston 400	
Brit Wire 1,200	Ladbroke 920	S&P Super 1,400	
Cadbury 1,300	Laporte 284	Richmanstr 283	

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):		FTSE Euro 100:	997.71 (+12.81)
Dow Jones	7326.01 (+2.16)	Brussels:	
S&P Composite	410.39 (+0.33)	DAX	5326.77 (+95.40)
Tokyo:		Paris CAC	469.58 (+3.97)
Nikkei 225	16380.77 (+247.19)	Zurich: SKA Gen	408.2 (-3.1)
Hong Kong:		London:	
Hang Seng	5291.49 (+99.44)	FT All-Share	1086.13 (+12.95)
Amsterdam:		FT 300	1229.13 (+4.23)
CBS Tendency	106.9 (+0.9)	FT Gold Index	803.2 (-1.2)
Sydney: AO	1517.3 (+22.2)	FT Fixed Interest	103.52 (+0.74)
Frankfurt:		FT Govt Secs	87.56 (+0.34)
DAX	1468.91 (+29.83)	Shanghai	1921.6
		SEAQ Volume	537.7m
		USM (Dcasima)	112.14 (-1.09)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
August 17	August 28	November 12	November 23

Call options were taken out on 258/992: Allied Leisure, Landrover, Lilley, Marathon Thompson, Rovers, Royal Insurance, Tarmac, Tophook, Travellog House.

Put: Barclays, Put & Call: BET.

LONDON FOREIGN EXCHANGE					
	Period	Open	High	Low	Close Volume
FT-SE 100	Sep 92	2306.0	2314.0	2326.0	2326.0 13992
Previous open interest: 40478	Dec 92	2341.0	2339.0	2305.0	2310.0 2199
Three Month Sterling	Sep 92	89.20	89.25	89.06	89.05 20398
Previous open interest: 254934	Dec 92	89.26	89.31	89.01	89.08 51567
	Mar 93	89.76	89.76	89.51	89.75 8175
Three Mth Eurodollar	Sep 92	96.52	96.54	96.51	96.55 457
Previous open interest: 28678	Dec 92	96.28	96.34	96.25	96.33 5462
Three Mth Euro DM	Sep 92	90.21	90.24	90.18	90.22 14776
Previous open interest: 372394	Dec 92	90.38	90.39	90.33	90.38 24522
US Treasury Bond	Sep 92	104.39	104.31	104.30	104.39 810
Previous open interest: 3342	Dec 92	104.37	104.37	104.25	104.37 8175
Long Gilt	Sep 92	96.07	96.14	95.13	95.21 81021
Previous open interest: 77465	Dec 92	96.17	96.22	95.96	96.01 9383
Japanese Govt Bond	Sep 92	106.58	106.70	106.89	107.04 259
Dec 92	106.48	106.53	106.35	106.52	1696
German Govt Bond	Sep 92	88.11	88.20	88.05	88.16 61076
Previous open interest: 211149	Dec 92	88.11	88.11	88.05	88.16 19865
Three month ECU	Sep 92	88.91	88.94	88.84	88.88 25
Previous open interest: 12596	Dec 92	89.20	89.20	89.06	89.10 75
Euro Swiss Franc	Sep 92	92.02	92.06	91.91	91.95 4035
Previous open interest: 52610	Dec 92	92.22	92.26	92.05	92.13 11903
Italian Govt Bond	Sep 92	92.65	92.63	92.24	92.40 19641
Previous open interest: 25431	Dec 92	92.65	92.65	92.24	92.40 19641

OTHER STEERING		300 LAR SPOT RATES	
Argentina (per)	1,968.8-1,971.6	Australia	1,403.1-1,404.0
Australia (dwt)	7,907.2-7,963.7	Brazil (dwt)	9,858.9-9,900.0
Bahian (dwt)	0.747-0.755	Canada (Com)	2,256.2-2,258.5
Brazil (crude)	9,727.7-10,733.04	Canada	1,189.1-1,189.6
Ceylon (dwt)	0.00-0.00	Denmark	5,445.0-5,450.0
Finland (crude)	7,707.7-7.8	France	5,445.0-5,450.0
Grain (crude)	1,353.2-349.73	Germany	1,404.7-1,405.5
India (dwt)	4,515.2-4,515.2	Hong Kong	7,730.2-7,730.0
India (crude)	56.25-56.25	India	7,730.2-7,730.0
Kuwait (crude) KD	0.5765-0.5835	Italy	10,758.0-10,760.0
Malaysia (dwt)	4,515.2-4,515.2	Japan	2,426.2-2,487.6
Mexico (per)	6,600-6,200	Netherlands	1,585.0-1,586.0
New Zealand (dwt)	3,685.9-3,694.2	Norway	5,569.0-5,574.0
Oil (crude) (dwt)	4,515.2-4,515.2	Poland	1,223.2-1,223.5
Singapore (dwt)	3,184.3-3,180.0	Singapore	1,601.0-1,602.0
Africa (dwt) (in)	5,460.7-5,540.0	Spain	9,201.0-9,210.0
Africa (dwt) (out)	4,466.5-4,685.0	Sweden	2,144.0-2,146.0
U & A (dwt)	2,275.7-3,623.0	Switzerland	2,490.1-2,500.0

MONEY RATES (%)						
Base Rates Clearing Banks 10 Finance Hire 10%						
Discounted Market Loans 0/night high 9%						
Treasury Bills (Overnight): 5 mths 10-13 10 mths 9%		Low 7		Week fixed: 9%		
3 mths 9% 6 mths 9% 9 mths 9% 12 mths 9%						
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):						
1 mths	3 mths	3 mths	6 mths	12 mths		
10%-9%	10%-9%	10%-9%	10%-9%	10%-9%		
10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%		
10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%		
Overnight open: 9%, close 7						
Local Authority Depos:						
10%	n/a	10%	10%	10%		
10%-10%	10%-10%	10%	10%	10%		
2.3-2.37	n/a	3.37-3.32	3.47-3	2.66-2.61		
10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%		
Borrowing Society CDs:						
10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%		

BODG: Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance. Make-up day: July 31, 1992 Agreed rates
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 July 1, 1992 to July 31, 1992 Scheme IV & V: 10-18.0%

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)					
Country	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Denmark	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
France	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Swiss Franc	7 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%
Swiss Franc	7 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%
West Germany	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)			
Bullion: Spot \$340.80-341.30	Close \$341.00-341.30	High: \$341.30-341.80	
Low: \$339.50-340.60	Kingsrand: \$340.00-340.60	\$1,711.00-1,722.00	
Sovereigns: Old \$78.00-81.00	Silver: 67.50-73.75	New \$81.00-83.00	\$2.45-2.47
Platinum: \$348.75-617.55	\$175.75-176.75	Palladium: \$85.00-84.00	

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

MONEY RATES (%)						
Base Rates Clearing Banks 10 Finance Hire 10%						
Discounted Market Loans 0/night high 9%						
Treasury Bills (Overnight): 5 mths 10-13 10 mths 9%		Low 7		Week fixed: 9%		
3 mths 9% 6 mths 9% 9 mths 9% 12 mths 9%						
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):						
1 mths	3 mths	3 mths	6 mths	12 mths		
10%-9%	10%-9%	10%-9%	10%-9%	10%-9%		
10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%		
10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%		
Overnight open: 9%, close 7						
Local Authority Depos:						
10%	n/a	10%	10%	10%		
10%-10%	10%-10%	10%	10%	10%		
2.3-2.37	n/a	3.37-3.32	3.47-3	2.66-2.61		
10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%		
Borrowing Society CDs:						
10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%	10%-10%		

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EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)					
Country	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Denmark	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%	3 1/2%
France	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%	5 1/2%
Swiss Franc	7 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%
Swiss Franc	7 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%	10 1/2%
West Germany	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%	4 1/2%

GOLD AND PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)			
Bullion: Spot \$340.80-341.30	Close \$341.00-341.30	High \$341.30-341.80	
Low \$339.50-340.60	Kingsrand: \$340.00-340.60	\$1,711.00-1,722.00	
Sovereigns: Old \$78.00-81.00	Silver: 67.50-73.75	New \$81.00-83.00	\$2.45-2.475
Platinum: \$348.75-617.50	Palladium: \$175.00-181.00	Gold coins: \$85.00-84.00	

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WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26 1992

WORLD MARKETS

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WALL STREET

Franc and lira in ERM trouble too

Should the French vote "no" to the Maastricht treaty, John Major and Norman Lamont seem likely to face a simple alternative: either they raise interest rates or resign. Even with nearly four weeks to go before the referendum, opinion polls showing the French equally divided sent a simple message to the foreign exchanges to buy marks, pushing sterling within a pfering of its limit against the key currency and even nearer its limit against the Belgian franc. The Chancellor has absolutely rejected leaving the ERM or devaluing sterling within it. The prime minister has committed himself to maintaining a DM2.95 central parity whatever happens to other currencies. The market, however, thinks the pound's rate against the mark is commercially unrealistic.

The trickier question facing Major and Lamont is whether to rely on the reserves or raise interest rates temporarily before the referendum. Since the government is so wholly committed to sterling's parity, the Bank of England should regard buying pounds with the foreign exchange reserves as offering, eventually, a certain profit. The Bank was buying selectively yesterday rather than mounting large-scale support. If sterling fell to its limit, the Bank can borrow virtually without limit from the Bundesbank and other ERM central banks to fulfil its obligation to buy, but only for three months. The risk is that an eventual interest rate rise might have to be larger and reserves would be depleted.

The Chancellor's potential trump card, however, is that sterling is no longer the only ERM currency in trouble. The lira, weakest of the currencies in the narrow band, is right up against its cross limits in the grid and the French franc is also entering the danger zone. A French non would almost certainly trigger a run to the mark against the currencies of all ERM countries outside the closely linked Benelux countries. They should press the Bundesbank to take the referendum risk with a temporary cut in German interest rates. If the Germans say no, they will have to face a flood of marks created by intervention that will need to be sterilised. They will also be shown to be inviting, in the most positive way, French rejection of the treaty. The Bundesbank may be independent. It is not meant to act as a political force.

Humble gasmen

British Gas, in the limbo of a full monopolies commission enquiry, sought to please everyone yesterday — its shareholders with a decent dividend increase and its customers with a further price cut that need not have been brought in until sometime next year. Even Cedric Brown, the new chief executive, conceded yesterday that British Gas's traditional image of being "bureaucratic, slow to change and averse to competition may be based on some reality". He expressed no doubt that the company will change in the future.

In the hands of the monopolies commission it almost certainly will, but the regulatory inroads already show. British Gas, unlike the electricity industry, was privatised in one huge lump and sold itself in the prospectus as the "largest integrated gas supply business in the western world". But the giant is being humbled and 30 per cent of the industrial supply market has already been lost. Mr Brown said that British Gas was "not risk free". He identified the risks as weather, competition and recession. However, the cost cutting will have to go on hold. He said that for the next nine to twelve months British Gas would be "fiddling around the edges in terms of cost cutting, which is unfortunate because there are things we need to do and should be doing". Despite the handicaps he looks certain to make the best of what the monopolies commission leaves behind.

William Kay takes a close look at the problems, created by competition, recession and diversification, facing the retailer

Today, W H Smith is the latest leading retailer to report on how it is weathering the recession. It does so against a steady trickle of selling that has taken the group's share price dangerously near to its low point for the year.

The reasons for investor anxiety are not difficult to fathom. As the country's premier retailer of small luxuries and posh necessities, it is more exposed than most to the brunt of the recession. And since the 1960s it has had to fight an increasingly tense struggle with competitors whose greatest advantage is that they have not been around for 200 years.

These pressures are only exacerbated by its other activities: newspaper wholesaling, office supplies, do-it-yourself stores and American hotel and airport shops. Paul Morris of Goldman Sachs, the analyst with arguably the closest knowledge of the group, says: "They are tied to the economic cycle and that is still pointing downwards."

Sir Simon Hornby, the group's chairman for the past ten years, is not one to be bogged down in short-term considerations, however. "If you look at our business overall, I feel very optimistic," he insists. "We are in a deep recession, but I see growth potential in all our businesses. You have to have the confidence to say that on the other side there is a bright future. I never believe in doing things if you don't see a bright future."

Sir Simon, an elegant product of Eton, Oxford, Harvard and the Grenadier Guards, has presided over one of the most difficult decades in the group's history. His family is intimately tied up with that history: his grandfather joined the firm 99 years ago.

The company's tale is a long and romantic one — it celebrates its bicentenary this year. The Times, founded seven years earlier, was leading the huge expansion of the London press at that time, effectively creating the newspaper's trade.

That prospect attracted Henry and Anna Smith, parents of William Henry, the eponymous W H. They took a shop in Little Grosvenor Street and established what was then termed a newswalk — the equivalent of today's paper round. Henry died within a fortnight and William Henry was only 24 when Anna died.

W H rapidly expanded the operation, branching out into other parts of London and later seizing on the opportunity to establish bookshops on station platforms when the railway network was laid down from the 1840s onwards.

So Smith was one of the first national retail names to be embedded in the British public consciousness. The timing of the company's



Long-sighted: in spite of the recession, Sir Simon Hornby, W H Smith chairman, sees a bright future

most important growth imbued it with Victorian values of honesty and reliability that served it well, at least for the first half of this century.

However, by the 1960s Smith began to look staid. It was where the aunts and uncles of the new generation of shoppers bought bland and inoffensive cards and presents for their aunts and nephews.

So the group embarked on a series of takeovers designed to widen its appeal. The strategy was that the Smith chain would retain its long-standing qualities of dependability, even if it was a shade predictable, while tapping trendier pockets by acquiring Our Price, Paperchase, Waterstone's and Virgin Records.

"The record of the company is one of great potential unfulfilled," says Zak Keshavjee, of Williams de Broe, the stockbroker.

Sir Simon said: "People say that W H Smith is accident prone, but we're prepared to try new things and take risks. In a way that manufacturing companies are always trying new products and failing, often at a heavy

cost. The public never see that, but unfortunately in retailing it's difficult to disguise it."

Critics point to Waterstone's as a symbol of how the Smith management was losing its touch. Tim Waterstone had joined Smith in 1973, after earning his marketing spurs with Allied Breweries. He rose to be chairman of W H Smith (USA) by 1978, but fell out with his bosses three years later. He fulfilled every frustrated executive's dream by starting a chain of bookshops in competition with Smith — and in 1989 they paid him the ultimate compliment of buying a controlling 50.5 per cent of Waterstone's for £9 million.

As Sir Simon puts it: "Tim Waterstone developed an imaginative approach to specialist bookselling, and the merger will create a bookselling business of the highest quality. What we didn't see, which I'm sure, was that you have the very big shops you get the sales."

Inevitably, as Smith is a group that

does best what it knows best, some of its more ambitious forays have had to be undone. It has pulled out of retail travel shops within shops, and cable and satellite television.

Do It All, its DIY chain, has been merged with Boots's Payless to form a jointly owned third force. It is a defensive move that may not be enough to beat the recession.

"I think that bringing the two companies together was strategically the right thing to do," Sir Simon argues, "because it's given us the national coverage which neither company had before. The market is obviously very depressed, because the housing market is depressed, and people spend money on their houses when they move. Because of that there is intense price cutting, particularly between B&Q and Texas. My experience of price wars is that eventually people see how futile they are, and stop."

The threat of a price war is also hanging over Smith's traditional book business, thanks to the campaign by Terry Maher, the chairman

of Pinter, to break the net book agreement. Pinter owns the Dillons bookshop chain. Smith is quietly gaining valuable experience of a free market in books, through its American operations, while stoutly opposing Mr Maher in Britain.

"Prices have had to go up in the States," reports Sir Simon, "so that the shops can then discount them. I'm quite clear that what the public really wants in bookselling is availability. Why I'm so opposed to the end of the NBA is I know it will put prices up."

He sees little change in the formula for the core business, of selling magazines, books, stationery and music, although he bemoans the current stagnation in popular music.

Paul McCartney and the founder members of the Rolling Stones are all within ten years of Sir Simon's age — 57. Elton John is 45. Even the top-selling Michael Jackson is a relatively whiskery 32. "There isn't a new sound coming through," Sir Simon says, "but that will evolve. Suddenly there'll be a burst of new sounds. So it's going through a difficult stage, which is really driven by technical change and fashion, and there's been a temporary blip in the prime buying age of 16 to 24. But I'm very confident of the music market in the long term, I really am."

Meanwhile, he has had to cope with a revolution in another core business: newspaper wholesaling. Distribution has been the hidden lifeblood of Smith, dating back to the stagecoach era and not to be confused with retail newsagents — an activity Smith withdrew from long ago. Until the late 1970s distribution accounted for more than half the group's turnover. But it was strongly unionised and dependent on the railways.

When Rupert Murdoch took his newspapers, including The Times, to Wapping in 1986 he had to establish a distribution system that was unfree. So he signed contracts with road hauliers, principally the Australian-owned TNT and BRS Newslow, part of NCF. Other newspaper publishers followed suit, giving them a much stronger position in negotiations with distributors like Smith.

Consequently, the publishers increased their profit margins at the expense of wholesalers, who also had to invent to compete. In Smith's case, the bill was £24 million for sophisticated new information systems and a reshaped distribution network. In the long run, this should pay good dividends, for computerisation allows closer analysis of sales trends and retailer behaviour — valuable information that can be used and sold. "A hundred years of change has been telescoped into five years," says Bob Simpson, managing director of W H Smith News.

Sir Simon's next, and possibly last, major project is to decide whether Smith ought to expand into other parts of Europe. "We're looking at it very carefully," he confirms, "probably as a joint venture for each country. Shareholders will be hoping that this project works out more happily than some of Smith's other attempts to stay ahead of the game."

BUSINESS LETTERS

Backing Cadbury can spread high standards of corporate governance

From Mr Maurice Hunt

Sir, Robert Bruce's faint praise of the CBI clearly does not extend to the corporate sector in his piece on the Cadbury Code (August 13). Unfortunately, his lack of goodwill (in the non-accounting sense) seems to be based on a number of misunderstandings.

The CBI believes that disclosure of an annual compliance statement such as a Stock Exchange listing obligation would be an expensive aid to compliance. Boards accustomed to the Yellow Book know that statements issued without meticulous care can seriously damage the health of a company and its shareholders. For that reason, chairmen would probably have their compliance statement checked by lawyers; and they in turn would want to know exactly what directors were signing

up to: the Code of Best Practice alone, or the Cadbury Committee's accompanying recommendations and explanatory memorandum as well? They do not say exactly the same thing, and before we knew it there would be calls for interpretative notes and authoritative rulings. Shareholders might think there were better ways for senior management and their advisers to spend their time.

Governments cannot legislate for good corporate governance, but shareholders, especially institutional ones, can insist upon it if they choose to; and there is growing evidence that they now do, when they believe that changes in board structure or operation are needed.

Pressure for compliance is more likely to come through this route than a formal statement in the annual report and

accounts. Cadbury rightly sees this Code of Best Practice as a checklist for board and investors, which has to be applied in a way sensitive to companies' individual circumstances, rather than as a close proxy for statute.

To put it another way, the success of a board is more likely to be a matter of personal chemistry than something designed through a mechanism such as a two-tier board. Independent directors may be a check and balance to a powerful individual or group of executives, but they ought to be much more besides, bringing a wider perspective and range of experience to the development of business strategy.

While the two-tier board can work in other business cultures, that is no reason to suppose that it would enhance company profits or avoid corporate failures here. After all, the Japanese, who have sustained their economic success for as long as the Germans and are skilful in borrowing and adapting ideas from elsewhere, have stuck to their version of the unitary board.

Cadbury's draft report has already been influential in causing boards to look again at their composition and method of working.

If it is sensibly applied and backed by institutional shareholders, it will spread the standards of corporate governance practised by the best companies.

Yours sincerely,
MAURICE HUNT,
Deputy Director-General and Secretary,
Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street,
WC1.

Shotgun shopping

From Mr Bernard Keeffe

Sir, Mr Miller rightly points out that British banks' high interest rates can hardly be said to increase consumer confidence (Business Letters August 19). There is even stronger encouragement elsewhere. A spokesman for one of our largest retailers of electronic goods in a broadcast this week appealed to the government to reduce interest rates, which, he claimed, were discouraging customers from entering his shops. This chain at present charges 32.9 per cent on credit purchases. With inflation below 4 per cent, this represents a real charge of between 28 and 29 per cent. This perhaps could be described as a shot-in-foot situation.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD KEEFFE
153 Honor Oak Road,
SE23

Getting vexed over vexillology and flying the wrong flag of Japan

From Mr Peter Bartlett

Sir, In the first column of Business Times (August 19) you have depicted what I can only assume you believe to be the national flag of Japan.

In fact what you have shown is the naval ensign, sometimes referred to as the "war ensign".

This design was adopted on November 3, 1889.

The national flag of Japan is a simple red disc on a white ground which is usually called the Hino-Marui and was officially adopted on August 5, 1853, largely in response to the arrival of Commodore Matthew C Perry, of the United States Navy, in that

year. The red disc (Hino Maru) is, as the chrysanthemum, a mon or heraldic device widely recognised for centuries in Japan.

The design of the sun with its rays, as you have shown, is I believe known as Asahi — as adopted by Pentax as part of

their name Vexillology can be an absorbing subject and needs careful attention.

Yours truly,
PETER G. BARTLETT,
56, Burfield Road,
Old Windsor,
Berkshire.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Drinkers' dividend

A CHANGE of strategy by Robert Fleming last autumn is about to pay unexpected dividends for City drinkers. Louise Mayo, the former top-ranking member of Fleming's UK and European convertibles and UK warrants team, which was closed just more than a year ago, is making an unusual comeback. Mayo, who is reputed to have earned close to £150,000 a year at Fleming's, is now based in Hong Kong where she has been setting up a similar desk for Standard Chartered. She flies in to London later this week, however, for the opening of Flowitts, a new drinking hole in Cannon Street, which she is launching with Tony Marshall, formerly of Prudential-Bache, and Graham Flowitt, former manager of Balls Brothers wine bar in the Great Eastern Hotel. "It is not a pub and not a wine bar," says Mayo. "It's a rare combination of both." The new venue is close to the futures and options exchange at Cannon Bridge and near James Capel's new offices, an unexpected benefit for Mayo, who worked for Capel before joining Fleming, and who is looking forward to a reunion with her former colleagues.



copies of the treaty at £3.50 each. Both ardent anti-federalists — Nelson stood for the Anti-Federalist League in the election. Pollard believes W H Smith, which has declined to take copies, "could sell 20,000 easily". Meanwhile, he has scored something of a coup in getting PC Plus, the computer magazine, to give away free copies of his disc of the treaty in its next issue.

Low key budget

THE Dances might have shaken financial markets with their Maastricht vote, but their budget, has passed unnoticed. Henning Dyrmoose, the finance minister, made the annual budget statement on Monday under an embargo prohibiting mention of it in the press until the following day. Whereas such a move would be unthinkable in Britain, where the Chancellor's statement is pounced on by the City, the Danish budget got by without a single breach of the embargo and, moreover, bare-

ly a mention in the world's press after the embargo was lifted. At lunchtime yesterday, even Kjeld Petersen, the economic councillor at the Danish embassy in London, had failed to catch sight of his government's statement. According to Petersen, the statement is always issued in August, when everyone is on holiday, and politicians do not debate it until the autumn. "I expect I'll probably be sent a copy by the end of the week," Petersen says.

Radio foresight

WAS Radio 4 tipped off about this week's changes at the TSB? After inviting main banks to put forward panelists for its *Called to Account* programme last Friday, the programme selected only one guest who was not a managing director or equivalent — Peter Ellwood, then head of retailing banking and insurance at TSB and now the bank's chief executive. Keith Vass, editor, denies he had inside knowledge, but is clearly adroit at picking his guests who last week included Sir John Quinlan, of Barclays, just after Barclays' terrible results. Vass says: "Lloyds and National Westminster categorically refused to put anyone forward for the live audience discussion but the TSB just said the chief executive wasn't available." Having seen Ellwood, 48, in action, Vass's first impressions, he says, are that he is "young but impressive. He fielded the questions well and made a very good pitch for his bank."

CAROL LEONARD

Treaty sells

THE British may not be as interested in Maastricht as the French, but there is interest in the UK, according to David Pollard, a computer huffin, and Susan Nelson, a sculptress, who have independently published and sold 3,500

THE TIMES

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No	Category	Group	Share Price
1	Williams Hill	Industrial	1.15
2	Way Homes	Building/Rd	1.15
3	Lloyds	Bank/Disc	1.15
4	Eurometals	Transport	1.15
5	Tomkins	Textiles	1.15
6	Clair Group	Chemicals	1.15
7	Fluor	Industrial	1.15
8	Tiphook	Transport	1.15
9	Island Foods	Food	1.15
10	Masland	Breweries	1.15
11	Bass	Breweries	1.15
12	Microfilm Rep	Electrical	1.15
13	Alford	Bank/Disc	1.15
14	Alps	Industrial	1.15
15	Barr & W.A.	Leisure	1.15
16	CHH	Building/Rd	1.15
17	Las Service	Motor/Air	1.15
18	Providence	Bank/Disc	1.15
19	Quanta	Motor/Air	1.15
20	BBS Group	Industrial	1.15
21	EMAP	Newspaper/Pub	1.15
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29	Smurfit	Paper/Print	1.15
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33	Wimpey	Building/Rd	1.15
34	Thames	Industrial	1.15
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37	Lucas	Motor/Air	1.15
38	Morland	Breweries	1.15
39	Oleander	Industrial	1.15
40	Boaker	Food	1.15
41	Kwik Save	Food	1.15
42	ERF	Motor/Air	1.15
43	Bryan	Building/Rd	1.15
44	Compton	Leisure	1.15

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Please take into account any bonus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily dividend for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT SUN

Three readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Miss G. Lacey, of Lytham St Anne's, Mr K. Wrigley, of Wakefield, and Mr B. Locken, of London W4, each receive £556.66.

1992 High Low Company Price Div % Yld % P/E

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French polls knock shares

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began on Monday. Dealings end September 4. Settlement day September 14. Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1992 High Low Company Price Div % Yld % P/E

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The burden of the uniform business rate is too much for some owners, Chris Partridge reports

Vandalism in high places

Property owners, already suffering from the effects of the slump in lettings, have resorted to "constructive vandalism", gutting their empty office buildings, to avoid having to pay the uniform business rate. Now, to escape local authority charges that can reach up to £1 million per year, owners of other empty offices are even threatening to wreck the facades of buildings in some prime central London sites.

At least six blocks in the City of London have been constructively vandalised by their rate-payers, so that technically they are unfit for occupation and consequently not liable for rates. So far, the damage has been limited to the interiors, by the removal of lights, kitchens, lavatories and any of the facilities that are legally necessary before office workers can use the premises. Externally, the buildings have been properly maintained and the City has agreed that no rates can be charged on the buildings.

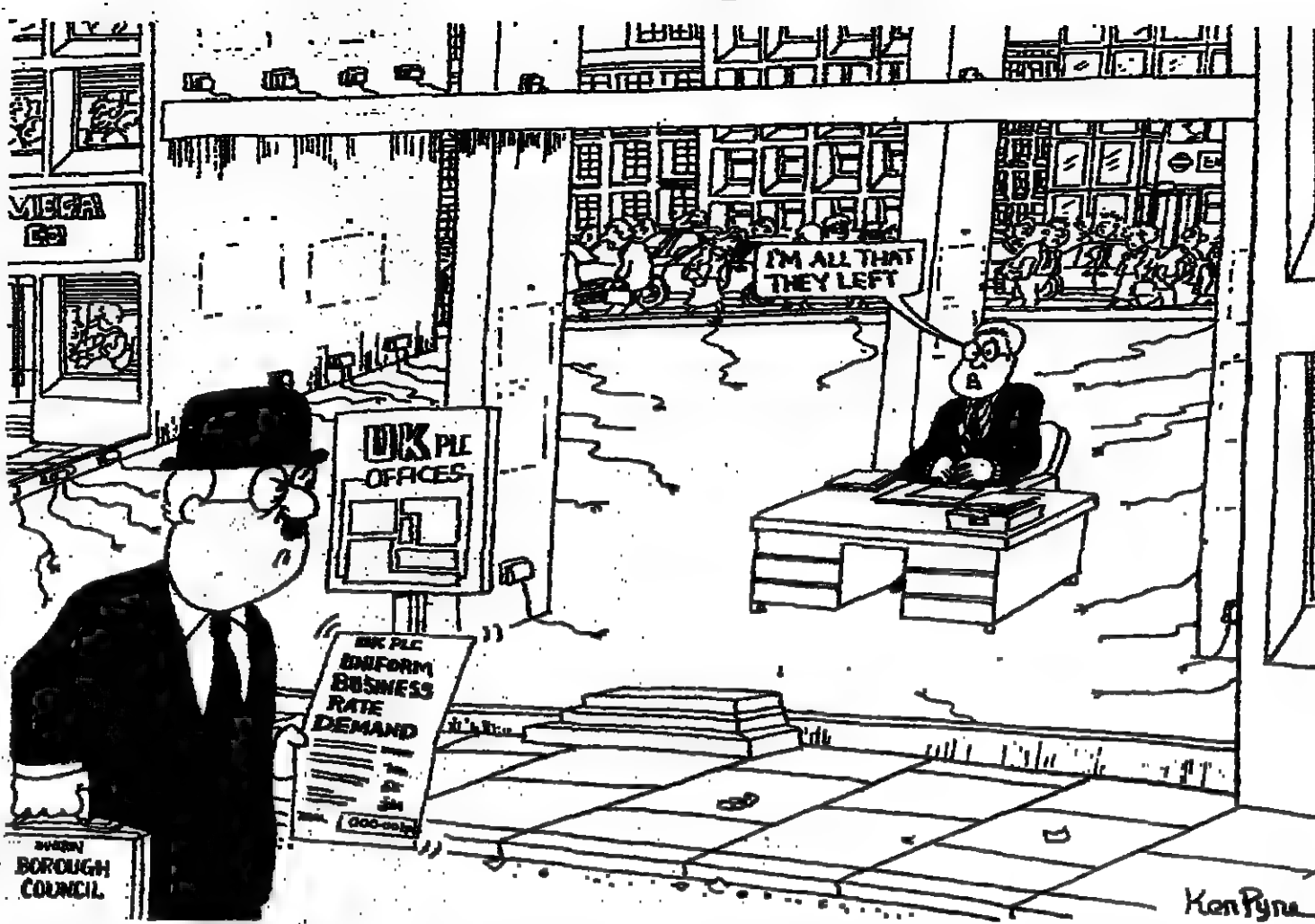
Now several developers plan a similarly destructive course of action on their buildings in other London boroughs, notably Westminster. However, they are finding district valuers less willing to co-operate. Therefore, the owners are threatening to destroy the exteriors as well, to make the case for zero rates unanswerable.

"The next step is to take the windows out, which would seriously affect the appearance of streets," says a director of one of the property firms that has already gutted a City office building, saving more than £250,000 a year.

The rates bills faced by owners or tenants of empty premises can be very large. The business rate in the City averages £22 per sq ft, of which half is payable on an empty office or shop after it has been unoccupied for three months. "Property holders face six-figure or seven-figure sums annually," says Michael Patison, the chief executive of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, which is campaigning for the introduction of a rate for empty properties of 10 per cent.

If a building is subjected to constructive vandalism, no rates are payable at all. But the expense of bringing the building back into commission if a tenant is found could be considerably greater.

Landlords also know that even empty buildings get the benefit of police protection, street lighting and



other council services, and are prepared to contribute something.

The last time there was an "empty" rate for commercial and industrial premises was in the 1960s, but it was abolished in the wake of the controversy over Centre Point, the New Oxford Street skyscraper which remained empty for several years, as its owner, Harry Hyams, waited for a single tenant.

The recessions of the 1990s in the manufacturing and distribution sectors have resulted in reductions of rates for empty factories and warehouses, especially after some factory owners went to the extent of removing roofs from buildings to get zero rating.

"There are huge amounts of property that cannot be sold or let, and many owners have problems meeting

the liability," Mr Patison says.

Buildings that have been subject to constructive vandalism in the City include Armour House, near St Paul's, owned by the St Martin's Property Corporation, which is sav-

ing an estimated £800,000 a year; and Winchester House at London Wall, owned by Wates (City), saving about £280,000. So far, the "vandalism" has been property companies, which would normally have redevel-

oped the buildings but have been

forced to postpone plans until business conditions improve. However, there are stories in the City that a leading industrial company is about to "vandalise" one of its main office blocks in order to save £1.5 million a year in business rates.

"There are any number of office buildings that were ripe for development but are now not viable, and there is no prospect of being able to let them for anything at all," says Michael Soames, a partner in estate agents Knight Frank & Rutley. "We see the problem

increasing over the next year unless something is done. It does seem slightly mad to be encouraging vandalism of expensive assets."

Yet there has been very little official response to constructive vandalism. In a written parliamentary answer

just before the Commons went into recess, Robin Squire, the environment minister, said: "We have no plans to change the law governing the rating of empty property. Empty property benefits from local services and it is right that it should contribute to the costs incurred by local authorities."

"Property whether occupied or empty is rateable if it is capable of beneficial occupation. If owners judge it commercially advantageous to render property unusable, that is a matter for them," Mr Squire estimated that the lost rates from the vandalised properties in the City came to about £3 million a year, compared to a total rate income from empty property in England of about £600 million a year, an amount that will not be easily given up from local authority coffers.

'The problem will increase over the next year unless something is done'

Time is right for investors to move into European market

Investors who stayed away from the commercial property market last year because of the fall in values could be ready to make some strategic purchases to take advantage of the end of the recession.

Dr Angus McIntosh, the head of research at the consultancy, Healey & Baker, says in the newly-published 1992 *European Investment Report* that the most sought after properties are no longer the land-

The recession has stifled property investment on the Continent, but as Christopher Warman reports, purchases now could pay dividends

mark buildings popular in the 1980s. These have proved vulnerable to loss of value during downturns. Proving more popular are the growth locations in markets that are

perceived to have an increasingly important part to play in the European Community.

While Germany has been the main target for some time, its popularity in the short term

has suffered because of the difficulties in the country's economy.

Dr McIntosh believes, however, that the downside of the recession has been over-emphasised for those who invest on a medium to long-term basis. "The countries that have benefited have been Portugal and Spain and, to a lesser extent, the UK and France, where there is a perception that bargains are to be obtained despite relatively low levels of occupational demand."

The report also explains how countries will amend legislative practice to permit them to function fully within the EC. Italy, Portugal and Spain should, over the next few years, remove artificial barriers and thus increase their investment appeal.

There is already considerable demand for retail investments in these three markets which, "by international standards, are relatively immature in terms of major retailers and sophisticated real estate investments."

Another investment report,

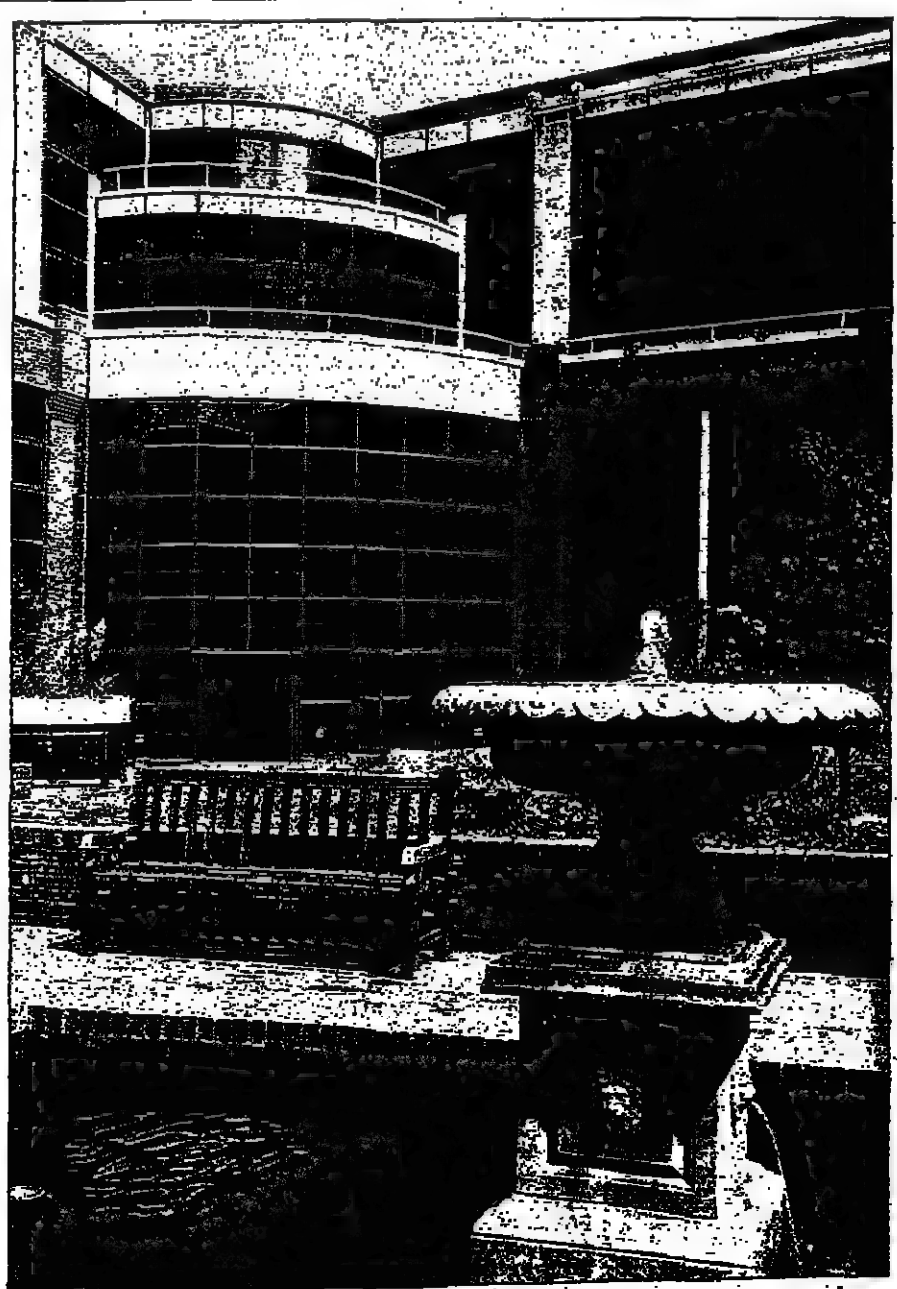
'Bargains can be obtained despite low demand'

from Jones Lang Wootton, concludes that with a few exceptions, notably Germany and Belgium, activity in Europe's main letting, development and investment markets has been slowing down, with little prospect of a significant upturn in the short term.

This provides an opportunity for occupiers and investors alike to exploit the reduced competition and more attractive pricing of the recession.

From the 25 property markets monitored in Jones Lang Wootton's *Quarterly Investment Report - the European Property Markets*, the clearest trend has been rising yields, reflecting both the reduced prospect of rental growth and upward pressure in interest rates.

As rents at the top of the market have generally flattened out or fallen, many investors have chosen to stay on the sidelines until they judge the market to be recovering.



LITTLE more than a six-bit from The Oval cricket ground, Cobalt Square is a new office development in south London. A 119,000 sq ft scheme of five buildings, it is set around a half-acre landscaped square, and is offered at £19.50 per sq ft by Bernard Thorpe, on behalf of Price Waterhouse.

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RUGBY LEAGUE

French connection in Regal Trophy aims to boost game

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

THE efforts of the Rugby Football League (RFL) to extend the borders of the game are to include the introduction of French teams into domestic competition, beginning with this season's Regal Trophy.

Carcassonne, France's leading side last season, and the club which wins an early-season competition will appear in the draw for the preliminary round in October. Both teams will play all their ties away from home.

The French game is a poor relation of rugby union and in urgent need of the stimulus that competition with British sides would provide. From the RFL's perspective, a stronger France would be beneficial not simply for the wider development of the game, but also in providing Great Britain with a harder edge to the two annual fixtures between the countries.

Should the French clubs become just a more exotic form of cannon fodder, the experiment could be interpreted

as a gimmick, rather than a genuine attempt to broaden and strengthen the game in the northern hemisphere. If the French connection can furnish a real competitive element, then the inclusion of teams from France in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup is a possibility.

However, the inability of the rugby league authorities to extend the horizons of the domestic league championship as far as Scarborough — the latest casualties after only a year in existence — continues to defy the game's expansionist ambitions.

Hull and Bradford Northern are maintaining their interest in signing Deryck Fox, the Great Britain scrum half, although Chris Caisley, the Bradford chairman, insisted yesterday that the club was not prepared to sell Karl Fairbank, the international forward, to Leeds in order to finance the purchase of Fox from Featherstone Rovers.

Warrington's Allan Bateman, the former Neath rugby union centre, is in hospital and will miss the first two weeks of the season after slipping discs in his back, lifting his eight-month-old daughter's bath water.

Leigh are facing legal action over an alleged breach of contract brought by Kevin Ashcroft, their former coach, who was dismissed in June after leading the club to promotion to the first division.

"I was promised a £3,000 bonus but my only reward was the sack," Ashcroft said. John Stringer, the Leigh general manager, said: "We are satisfied Kevin was paid everything he was due."

Leigh will stage the championship match against Warrington on Sunday at their Hilton Park ground. Rochdale Hornets have completed the signing of Cavill Heugh, the Leeds forward, from Australia, who originally rejected the club's terms.

BASKETBALL

Tolworth will see more of Kingston

By NICHOLAS HARLING

KINGSTON (or Guildford Kings, as they are now known) have suffered the embarrassment of asking the Tolworth Leisure Centre to stage their first Carlsberg League home games next season.

Since the club's move down the A3 to Guildford has been delayed "to late autumn" by the finishing touches to the £29.5 million Spectrum Sports Centre, the Carlsberg League champions will be forced to stay put on their old court for the time being.

Their first home fixture, against Derby on September 19, is certain to take place at Tolworth, and the same will probably be the case for the games against Sunderland (October 4), Worthing (October 10), Leicester (October 17) and Cheshire (October 24).

The home European Cup tie with Kalev Tallinn will, however, take place at Crystal Palace on September 17, and if the Kings progress to the second round they will face Limoges on October 1, also in the National Sports Centre.

The Kings, who won all five

domestic trophies last season, will be the only English club in Europe next season as Thames Valley Tigers, the league and cup runners-up last season, declined to enter the Cup Winners' Cup. For financial reasons, Derby, London Towers, Worthing and Leicester all refused invitations to enter the Korac Cup.

Leicester will be the weaker for Karl Brown's decision to join Kevin Cadie's squad at Guildford. Trevor Gordon, another English and British international, has also rejoined his former coach after an unproductive season with BAC Damme in Belgium.

The two new Americans at Kings will be Tyrone Shoulters, formerly with Birmingham, and Derek Thompsons, both of whom played in Austria last season. Russ Saunders, Colin Irish and Mike Griffiths, the departed trio, are all looking for new clubs. Joel Moore, the former Kingston player, has left Stuttgart-Ludwigsburg in Germany and joined London Towers.

BOXING

Eubank may meet Piper

CHRIS Eubank has been made a substantial offer to defend his World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight title against Nicky Piper, of Cardiff, before Christmas.

Piper's manager, Frank Warren, confirmed that he made a £225,000 offer to Eubank's manager, Barry Hearn, but was dismayed with Hearn's response.

"Two months ago I first made the offer to Hearn. He contacted me to say that the fight could not take place because Piper was not in the WBO's ratings," Warren said.

"In the August ratings Piper appears at No. 8, so I made the offer again. "It was faxed a reply telling me that I could not promote Eubank but I was asked how

much I required for Piper to fight him.

"I am willing to give Eubank £225,000 and unless his manager can beat that, Chris should instruct Hearn to accept because a manager works for the fighter and is obligated to get the best deal."

A spokesman for Hearn's Matchroom organisation confirmed that the offer had been made. "Eubank is concentrating on his fight against Thornton. When that is over, and he is looking for a new opponent, Piper, because he is now in the ratings, could be the challenger."

Eubank, aged 26, who has had eight world title bouts in 22 months, defends his title in Glasgow next month against the American, Tony Thornton.

rely upon to get a flavour of a game.

There are two problems. One was graphically illustrated in the third of the Texaco Trophy matches, the one that settled the series. A programme that genuinely intended to give us the highlights from Trent Bridge would have concentrated almost exclusively on England's huge innings, and, in particular, the partnership between Graeme Hick and Neil Fairbrother. This was swash at its most blinding.

Unfortunately, these programmes have become set in their ways. I did not put a watch to it, but my impression was that the two sides

got something close to equal time. There was never a hope of Pakistan winning and, although England bowlers knocking over stumps is a sight rare enough to warrant some attention, surely this was a golden opportunity to give over most of the 50 minutes to England's batting display, a classic of the one-day game.

Sadly, the attempt to be balanced produced disjointed coverage. The suspicion is that the television producers think stumps being blasted out of the ground make for better viewing than good stroke play, but I would applaud the editors if they went for broke (and risked the wrath of opposition supporters, of whatever side) by giving us a thorough look at what, in this case, was a

world record-breaking innings.

That leads me to the second problem of the highlights programmes, which is that they are under-captioned. Too often one is left to guess at the identity of batsman and bowler, which is not as helpful as it could be. I can see that, given the sparse commentary favoured by Richie Benaud and Co (and me), there is a difficulty here, but I have the impression that captions (Wagar to Hick) are used less now than used to be the case. Can we have more of them please?

A third point that could use some attention is the question of the summarisers. Geoffrey Boycott comes over well and Ray Illingworth avoids repeating what the main commentator has said

more often than not (though not often enough), but I did not think Asif Iqbal added much to the sum of human knowledge in the Test series and one-day internationals.

Asif is a charming man who knows the game inside out, in the commentary box he needs a little pre-match coaching.

I suppose there is no avoiding the subject of football. Match of the Day is back and benefiting from the presence of Alan Hansen and Gary Lineker, not to mention the fact that there seem to be plenty of goals about.

I do wonder how much longer the opening sequence, which has been using shots from throughout the programme's history, can continue. There was a good excuse on Saturday night, the programme celebrating the anniversary of its first transmission, but I would have thought the device had a pretty limited shelf life, given that even brief glimpses of

Sixties action are pretty stale by now. But I dare say there are plenty of people with long memories who enjoy some spot-the-goal fun.

The other highlight of the weekend, for a sad reason, was the coverage from Gatcombe Park on Sunday. Raymond Brooks-Ward had died the previous day and what a loss he is to show jumping on television. Brooks-Ward gave spice and excitement to a sport in which I am not normally greatly interested. But Michael Tucker filled the breach admirably. One of the tributes to Brooks-Ward had described him as "irreplaceable", which is true in one sense. Tucker, however, should prove a worthy successor in the main commentary slot.

Asif: pre-match coaching

YACHTING

Deerstalker still in the battle to sink Little's chances

By BARRY PICKTHALL

CHRIS Little and his Bounder crew are the provisional winners of the Hartlepool Renaissance Round Britain race. They battled their way back to Cowes shortly after midnight yesterday to secure the handicap lead over their close rivals, Bon Vouloir III and The Youth Challenge, skippered by Matthew Humphries.

However, Little and his crew now have an anxious wait until 10am tomorrow to see whether Michael Taylor-Jones and his S&S 34 Deerstalker can better their time. The Deerstalker crew stole a surprising three-hour lead over Bounder after completing the third stage of this 1,860-mile circumnavigation from Lerwick to Hartlepool. At noon yesterday, she was rounding the Norfolk coast, still 240 miles from the finish with her crew rubbing their hands at the prospect of strong winds again today.

"We're in the hands of the gods," Little admitted yesterday. "If the weather keeps blowing as it has, they may beat us."

At one point during this final stage, the winds were reaching 50 knots, forcing the Bounder crew to take down their mainsail for a time. But the conditions put paid to

Matthew Humphries' promising Youth Challenge. This prospective Whitbread team had wanted reaching winds to pull back the three-hour deficit they had lost to Bounder on the leg down from Lerwick. Instead they had it blowing hard on the nose during the final section down the English Channel. "It took us 10 hours to cover the last 17 miles. The winds were blowing 45 knots across the deck and the boat was making all sorts of noises. We just had to slow down."

Humphries said when finishing at lunchtime yesterday. Whatever the final result, all crews, with the exception perhaps of the Colin Wainwright-led Damp Truck team have enjoyed the race and hospitality at each port. "It has been the most frustrating and yet enjoyable race I have ever done," Little said. "It has all been very entertaining."

Matters were less entertaining, however, for James Hatfield and his handicapped crew aboard Dolphin and the RAF team sailing Blue Diamond. Both yachts reported serious steering problems last night.

PROVISIONAL HANDICAP RESULTS: 1. Bounder (15) 2. Bon Vouloir III (2) 3. Youth Challenge (14) 4. Deerstalker (34) 5. Damp Truck (10) 6. Blue Diamond (10) 7. Dolphin (10) 8. S&S 34 (10) 9. S&S 34 (10) 10. S&S 34 (10) 11. S&S 34 (10) 12. S&S 34 (10) 13. S&S 34 (10) 14. S&S 34 (10) 15. S&S 34 (10) 16. S&S 34 (10) 17. S&S 34 (10) 18. S&S 34 (10) 19. S&S 34 (10) 20. S&S 34 (10) 21. S&S 34 (10) 22. S&S 34 (10) 23. S&S 34 (10) 24. S&S 34 (10) 25. S&S 34 (10) 26. S&S 34 (10) 27. S&S 34 (10) 28. S&S 34 (10) 29. S&S 34 (10) 30. S&S 34 (10) 31. S&S 34 (10) 32. S&S 34 (10) 33. S&S 34 (10) 34. S&S 34 (10) 35. S&S 34 (10) 36. S&S 34 (10) 37. S&S 34 (10) 38. S&S 34 (10) 39. S&S 34 (10) 40. S&S 34 (10) 41. S&S 34 (10) 42. S&S 34 (10) 43. S&S 34 (10) 44. S&S 34 (10) 45. S&S 34 (10) 46. S&S 34 (10) 47. S&S 34 (10) 48. S&S 34 (10) 49. S&S 34 (10) 50. S&S 34 (10) 51. S&S 34 (10) 52. S&S 34 (10) 53. S&S 34 (10) 54. S&S 34 (10) 55. S&S 34 (10) 56. S&S 34 (10) 57. S&S 34 (10) 58. S&S 34 (10) 59. 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RUGBY UNION

Coaches hot under the collar at law changes

By Gerald Davies

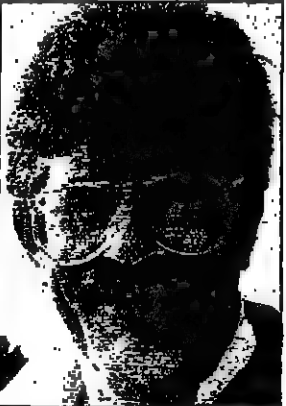
IF SOUTH Africa showed its international against New Zealand that at least one of the new law changes is an unqualified success — where the ball can be thrown quickly before a full scrum has had time to form — the new law governing the ruck and maul, however, is more contentious. Bob Dwyer, as he prepared his Australian team to face South Africa last weekend, voiced his dissatisfaction with it.

Elsewhere, too, coaches are already getting hot under the collar about what is an experimental variation on the law. Each of the three superior rugby countries, England, New Zealand and Australia, have been vociferous in its condemnation since the International Rugby Football Board announced its intention last spring. Briefly, the law says that when the ball becomes unplayable at either a ruck or maul and a scrum is ordered then the ball shall be put in by the team not in possession at the commencement of either of these loose play situations.

The argument against the change states that it violates an important principle of rugby football. That is to say, the team going forward will be rewarded. From now on, it isn't necessarily so. From now on in these particular areas of the game the guiding principle will be that the ball must be kept "alive" and not be allowed to "die" at the bottom of a suffocating pile of inert bodies.

Therefore, there is an obligation to promote more continuous movement. To have fewer of those long-winded and unsightly passages of pushing and shoving which only encourages the layman to interpret rugby union simply as an infinitely more complicated, though no more sophisticated, version of the Elton wall game.

The beauty of rugby's laws.



Dwyer: not satisfied

despite, or perhaps because of, their obscurity or ambiguity, is the scope they often allow for a variety of tactics. While any number of factors from pure talent to a spot of rain, for instance, may determine a team's intention on any one day, the over-riding influential factor — excepting skill — on the style of rugby is the vision the players and their coaches bring to the game. They can limit their choice of tactics or expand on them. It is the shrewd judgment in their deployment which is important. Styles emerge; some are more appealing than others. By and large, what we understand as the running game is preferred.

Over one glorious weekend of the World Cup semi-finals last autumn, the contrasts which rugby encourage were on view, at Murrayfield and Lansdowne Road, England, unsure of their overall strength or unwilling to test it against the Scots, were certain their simple possession among their powerful forwards would, more or less, ensure a final place. They were right and played a dour and successful match. It enthralled the English partisans but failed to charm anyone else. The match would have appealed to the mind of an objective observer, too, but not his heart.

The following day Australia and New Zealand played a match of greater width and depth of movement. This, dare I say, tickled the minds and hearts of us all.

If any game may be persuaded, the international change in ruck and maul might be worth an experiment then the balance of their views could well have been tipped in that direction by what they saw in that first match at Murrayfield. England stifled Scotland out of existence, yet only three points separated them at the end. Hence forward, the law makers may have concluded that the team who has the ball has the duty to keep it mobile.

In response, coaches seem to be protesting too much. A few red herrings are already circulating and, like many a good dummy, there are those quite happy to buy them. The new law, it is argued, will only encourage negative skills from the defending team as to stop the ball from being freed. But the answer is surely that it is up to the team with the ball to improve its own protective skills or release the ball earlier. Like American football and rugby league the laws now impose certain limits on team in possession.



Spence: European Tour performances have gained him a Dunhill Cup place on merit

Spence has earned his reward

By John Hennessey

SUCCESS in golf, as in other games, means different things to different people. For Vijay Singh, of Fiji, last week's German Open brought his second victory of the season. For José María Olazábal, a second place in his first season on the European Tour provided not only £58,275 in prize-money but also the guarantee of his player's card next season.

More modestly placed though he was, twelfth, James Spence secured a position which has left him, as he explained yesterday, "ecstatic". It meant that he would take a place in the English team alongside Steven Richards and David Gifford for the Dunhill Cup in October. "Some people think I got the place because Nick Faldo wasn't available," he points out, "but that's not the case. Steve took his place, not me. I think I deserve to be in because of my consistency. I'm in the top 12 of the stroke-average table with 70.43, second among English players only to Faldo."

Spence, a modest young man of 29 who should fit

nice into a team of like-minded characters, is a role model for aspiring young professional golfers. Unlike his two companions, both former English champions, he never rose above county level as an amateur.

As a professional his achievements were modest in his first four years but he persevered and managed to keep his head above water with the help of Nevill club members. That all changed in 1990, the year, coincidentally or not, of his marriage.

Sally Ann may well have been an influence, but in golfing terms he feels he owes much to Paul Huggert, the Nevill professional, who cured his reverse pivot by getting him to transfer weight from left foot to right in the back swing.

Beyond that, he worked hard on physical development, which pushed up his weight, at 5ft 8in, "from ten stone and a bit to 11 stone 10, mostly muscle — though my wife might not agree."

That enabled Spence to play four rounds without any distress and gave him more length. "Before," he says, "I couldn't reach the par fives in

two, even with a three wood. Now they are all in range." The turning point for him came in the 1990 Open. Playing right through from the regional qualifying, he stunned the golf world with a 65 in the second round of the competition proper, during which he was leading the field for a time.

He finished 22nd for a prize of nearly £8,000, but perhaps more valuable was the experience of playing alongside Nick Price in the third round

and Mike Reid in the fourth in front of big galleries. That all happened at St Andrews, so he is unlikely to be over-awed when he returns there in October for the Dunhill Cup.

His next target, he says, is the Ryder Cup team next year. With that in mind he is passing up this week's Murphy's English Open and will spring into action again with the Canon European Masters at Crans-sur-Sierre next week, the first tournament counting for Ryder Cup points.

GOLF

Daughter helps Benka through

By a Correspondent

PETER Benka, the former Walker Cup international, had to thank his 16-year-old daughter, Claire, for a safe passage through the first round of the Burhill Family Foursome when this 55-year-old event began on the Surrey course yesterday.

During the recent school holidays Miss Benka has reduced her handicap from ten to seven, which means that she and her father will have to give away even more strokes than was originally the case.

But, even though conceding three shots to a formidable Sunningdale partnership of Julia Holland and her son, Hugh, they still survived a high-quality clash on the last green.

Miss Benka holed three vital 15ft putts and then, at the last hole, played a superb five-wood approach shot from out of the rough right into the heart of the green to make sure of their place in the second round. But the Holland family had every reason to regret the expensive three putts they expended on both the 13th and 15th greens.

Another Benka combination, Pam, a former Curis Cup international, and 19-year-old son, Mark, did not have to strike a blow in taking their place in the second round, receiving a walkover when the Burghley Park pair, Ann and Paul Kennelly, had to scratch because of business commitments.

Also through went Mavis Pollin and her son, Richard, of the host club, who came through on the final green as well against the West Sussex partnership of Sue and Tim Mote. That kept the Pollins on course to be the first pair to win the title two years in succession since the Foxes in 1982.

□ Dublin, Ohio: The second qualifying round in the United States amateur championship will finish on two courses at Mulfield Village today.

The leading 64 players will then go on to the match-play stage of the event.

EQUESTRIANISM

Jam fails to stop dressage success

DESPITE an hour spent in a motorway traffic jam, Hampshire Hunt branch, led by the Chipperfield sisters, Romilly, 19, and Kimberley, 16, won the Pony Club dressage championships at Weston Park, near Telford, yesterday (Oxonia Cannon writes).

Aided by Cherie Davies (16) and Melissa Smith (15), they beat New Forest, who had a last-minute change of one team member, by two points. Last year's winners were Crawley and Horsham, 18 points behind with their B team. Their A team did not have a good day.

The Chipperfield girls look after their own horses, North End and Chagall, at a yard at Thursley, Surrey, and are taught by the owner, Sarah Dwyer. Romilly, who finished individually second, goes to Sussex University in October to study psychology, and is also a competitor at young rider level in horse trials. Kimberley, who finished as sixth individual, is still at school.

Taking part in their first championships were Cherie, who keeps her horse in her aunt's livery yard, and Melissa, who borrowed her brother's pony, "Absolutely Spiffing", when her own went lame a few weeks ago. Both are trained by Nicky Barratt, a winner of this contest in 1977, and, like the riders, similarly held up on the M40.

Belinda Routledge, district commissioner of the Hampshire branch, was delighted, although adding that it was only part of the effort, since she had three Pony Club camps going on at home.

Twenty-six teams from England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales took part with 137 horses. Today there will be a further 100-plus riders contesting the show jumping championship. The event is sponsored by Champion Equestrian Helmets.

RESULTS: Team: Hampshire Hunt Branch, 860; 2, New Forest, 848; 3, Crawley and Horsham, 838; 4, Canoe (free), 828. Individual winners: A, S Taylor (Crawley); B, S Hammond (New Forest); C, N Clarke (Canoe); D, N Worley (Hampshire Hunt); E, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); F, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); G, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); H, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); I, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); J, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); K, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); L, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); M, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); N, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); O, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); P, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); Q, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); R, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); S, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); T, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); U, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); V, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); W, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); X, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); Y, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); Z, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); AA, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); AB, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); AC, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); AD, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); AE, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); AF, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); AG, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); AH, S Taylor (Hampshire Hunt); 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FOOTBALL

Latest results on Monday

FA PREMIER LEAGUE: Southampton 0, Manchester United 1.
NEVILLE CHURCHILL COMMUNITY: First division: Crystal Palace 4, Ipswich 0. Second division: Exeter City 4, Plymouth Argyle 0.
PONTING CENTRAL LEAGUE: Second division: Coventry City 1, Hull City 0.
SEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Coventry City 1, Ipswich 0. Second division: Exeter City 4, Plymouth Argyle 0.
DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Coventry City 1, Ipswich 0. Second division: Exeter City 4, Plymouth Argyle 0.
HES LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Coventry City 1, Ipswich 0. Second division: Exeter City 4, Plymouth Argyle 0.
GREAT HILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Coventry City 1, Ipswich 0. Second division: Exeter City 4, Plymouth Argyle 0.

BASEBALL

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Cincinnati Reds 6, Philadelphia Phillies 3. New York Yankees 5, San Francisco Giants 1. Chicago Cubs 6, San Diego Padres 3. Los Angeles Dodgers 5, Pittsburgh Pirates 4.
AMERICAN LEAGUE: New York Yankees 5, Milwaukee Brewers 3. California Angels 3, Baltimore Orioles 2. Oakland A's 8, Los Angeles White Sox 6. Toronto Blue Jays 4, Detroit Tigers 3. Minnesota Twins 2.

BOXING

MEXICO CITY: World Boxing Council (WBC) lightweight championship: Miguel Gonzalez (Mex) vs W Rodas (Col), no fight.

CRICKET

RAPID CRICKET: SECOND XI CHAMPIONSHIP: Burnley vs Hampshire 301-7 dec and 79-2 dec. Lancashire vs Warwickshire 77-2 dec and 31-1 dec. Match drawn. Lancashire: Durham 41-3 v Glamorgan. No play.

GOLF

ASHBOURN: Claret Calcutta Welsh Professional Open: Leading three-round scores: 71, C Evans (Preston); 73, D Hughes (Walsley); 74, P Price (County Services); K Lint (Musselburgh); M Benjamin (St Mary's); N Rodden (Clyde); 75, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 76, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 77, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 78, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 79, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 80, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 81, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 82, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 83, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 84, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 85, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 86, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 87, W Laidlaw (Clyde); 88, W L



WOMEN p5

Jeanette
Winterson:
an idealist
about love



LIFE & TIMES

HOMES p7

Under the
hammer:
repossessed
houses



WEDNESDAY AUGUST 26 1992

OPENING LINES: the first chapters of some of this autumn's strongest Booker contenders

Pilgrim through a barren land



P.D. James's latest novel *The Children of Men* is set in a future England where human infertility has spread like a plague. In the third in our series, the central character, Theodore Faron, introduces himself...

FRIDAY 1 JANUARY 2021

Early this morning, 1 January 2021, three minutes after midnight, the last human being to be born on earth was killed in a pub brawl in a suburb of Buenos Aires, aged twenty-five years two months and twelve days. If the first reports are to be believed, Joseph Ricardo died as he had lived. The distinction, if one can call it that, of being the last human, whose birth was officially recorded, unrelated as it was to any personal virtue or talent, had always been difficult for him to handle. And now he is dead.

The news was given to us here in Britain on the nine o'clock programme of the State Radio Service and I heard it fortuitously. I had settled down to begin this diary of the last half of my life when I noticed the time and thought I might as well catch the headlines to the nine o'clock bulletin. Ricardo's death was the last item mentioned, and then only briefly, a couple of sentences delivered without emphasis in the newscaster's carefully non-committal voice. But it seemed to me, hearing it, that it was a small additional justification for beginning the diary today: the first day of a new year and my fiftieth birthday. As a child I had always liked that distinction, despite the inconvenience of having to follow Christmas too quickly so that one present — it never seemed notably superior to the one I would in any case have received — had to do for both celebrations.

As I begin writing, the three events, the New Year, my fiftieth birthday, Ricardo's death, hardly justify subliming the first pages of this new loose-leaf notebook. But I shall continue, one small additional defence against personal accidie. If there is nothing to record, I shall record the nothingness and then if, and when, I reach old age — as most of us can expect to, we have become experts at prolonging life — I shall open one of my tins of hoarded matches and light my small personal bonfire of vanities. I have no intention of leaving the diary as a record of one man's last years. Even in my most egotistical moods I am not as self-deceiving as that. What possible interest can there be in the journal of Theodore Faron, Doctor of Philosophy, Fellow of Merton College in the University of Oxford, historian of the Victorian age, divorced, childless, solitary, whose only claim to notice is that he is cousin to Xen Lyppiatt, the dictator and Warden of England.

No additional personal record is, in any case, necessary. All over the world nation states are preparing to store their testimony for the posterity which we can still occasionally convince ourselves may follow us, those creatures from another planet who may land on this green wilderness and ask what kind of sentient life once inhabited it. We are storing our books and manuscripts, the great paintings, the musical scores and instruments, the artefacts. The world's greatest libraries will in forty years' time at most be darkened and sealed. The buildings, those that are still standing, will speak for themselves. The

soft stone of Oxford is unlikely to survive more than a couple of centuries. Already the University is arguing about whether it is worth refacing the crumbling Sheldonian.

But I like to think of those mythical creatures landing in St Peter's Square and entering the great Basilica, silent and echoing under the centuries of dust. Will they realize that this was once the greatest of man's temples to one of his many gods? Will they be curious about his nature, this deity who was worshipped with such pomp and splendour, intrigued by the mystery of his symbol, at once so simple, the two crossed sticks ubiquitous in nature, yet laden with gold, gloriously jewelled and adorned? Or will their values and their thought processes be so alien to ours that nothing of awe or wonder will be able to touch them? But despite the discovery — in 1997 was it? — of a planet which the astronomers told us could support life, few of us really believe that they will come. They must be there. It is surely unreasonable to credit that only one small star in the immensity of the universe is capable of developing and supporting intelligent life. But we shall not get to them and they will not come to us.

We are outraged and demoralized less by the impending end of our species, less even by our inability to prevent it, than by our failure to discover the cause. Western science and Western medicine haven't prepared us for the magnitude and humiliation of this ultimate failure. There have been many diseases which have been difficult to diagnose or cure and one which almost depopulated two continents before it spent itself. But we have always in the end been able to explain why. We have given names to the viruses and germs which, even today, take possession of us, much to our chagrin since it seems a personal affront that they should still assail us, like old enemies who keep up the skirmish and bring down the occasional victim when their victory is assured.

Western science has been our god. In the variety of its power it has preserved, comforted, healed, warmed, fed and entertained us and we have felt free to criticize and occasionally reject it as men have always rejected their gods, but in the knowledge that despite our apostasy, this deity, our creature and our slave, would still provide for us: the anaesthetic for the pain, the spare heart, the new lung, the antibiotic, the moving wheels and the moving pictures. The light will always come on when we press the switch and if it doesn't we can find out why. Science was never a subject I was at home with. I understood little of it at school and I understand little more now that I'm fifty. Yet it has been my god too, even if its achievements are incomprehensible to me, and I share the universal disillusionment of those whose god has died.

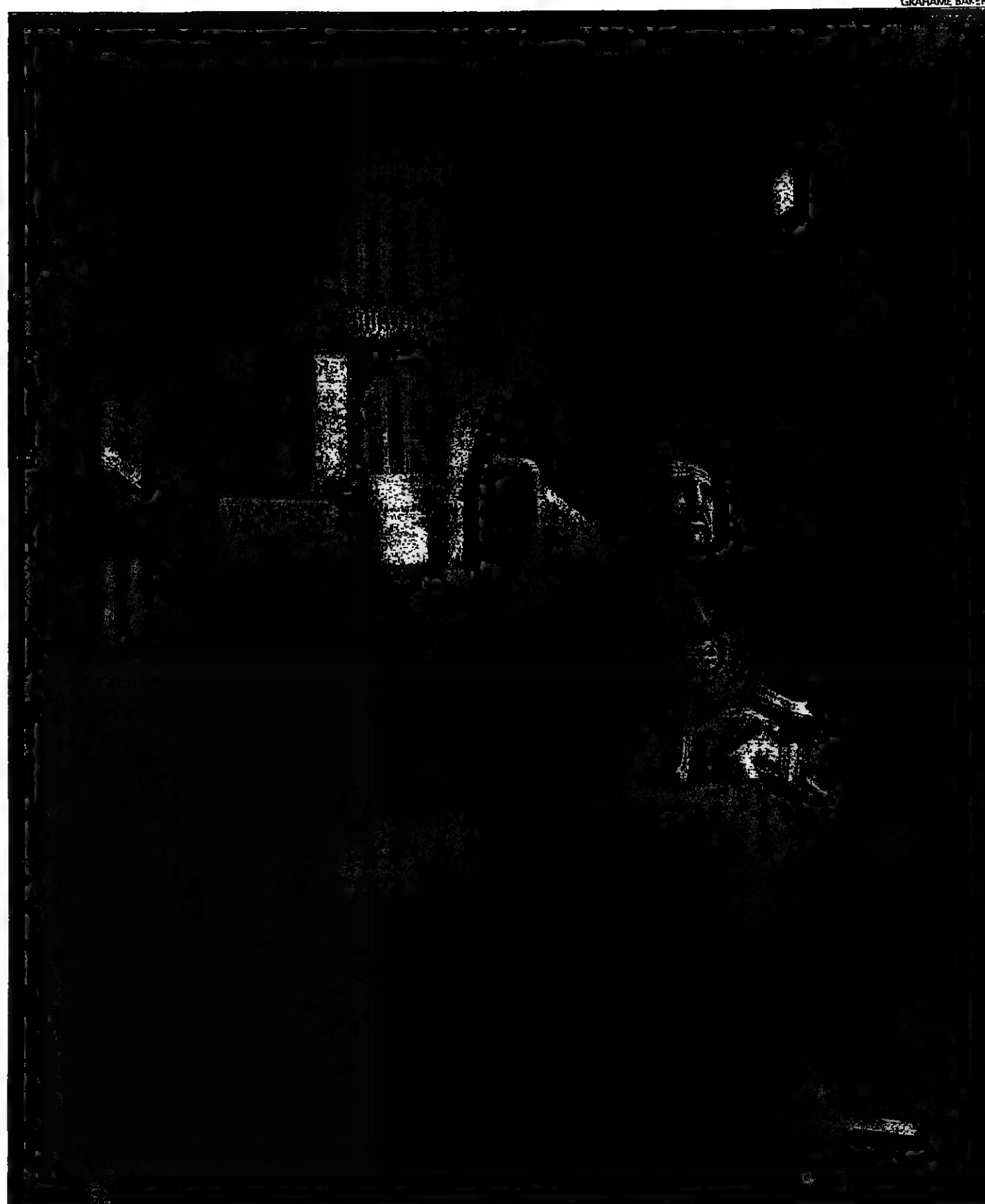
I can clearly remember the confident words of one biologist spoken when it had finally become apparent that nowhere in the whole world was there a pregnant

woman: "It may take us some time to discover the cause of this apparent universal infertility." We have had twenty-five years and we no longer even expect to succeed. Like a lecherous stud suddenly stricken with impotence, we are humiliated at the very heart of our faith in ourselves. For all our knowledge, our intelligence, our power, we can no longer do what the animals do without thought. No wonder we both worship and resent them.

In our universal bereavement, like grieving parents, we have put away all painful reminders of our loss. The children's playgrounds in our parks have been dismantled. For the first twelve years after Omega the swings were looped up and secured, the slides and climbing frames left unpainted. Now they have finally gone and the asphalt playgrounds have been grassed over or sown with flowers like small mass graves. The toys have been burnt, except for the dolls which have become for some half-demented women a substitute for children. The schools, long closed, have been boarded up or used as centres for adult education. The children's books have been systematically removed from our libraries. Only on tape and records do we now hear the voices of children, only on film or on television programmes do we see the bright, moving images of the young. Some find them unbearable to watch but most feed on them as they might a drug.

The children born in the year 1995 are called Omegas. No generation has been more studied, more examined, more agonized over, more valued or more indulged. They were our hope, our promise of salvation and they were — they still are — exceptionally beautiful. It sometimes seems that nature in her ultimate unkindness wished to emphasize what we have lost. The boys, men of twenty-five now, are strong, individualistic, intelligent and handsome as young gods. Many are also cruel, arrogant and violent, and this has been found to be true of Omegas all over the world. The dreaded gangs of the Painted Faces who drive round the countryside at night to ambush and terrorize unwary travellers are rumoured to be Omegas. It is said that when an Omega is caught he is offered immunity if he is prepared to join the State Security Police, whereas the rest of the gang, no more guilty, are sent on conviction to the Penal Colony on the Isle of Man, to which all those convicted of crimes of violence, burglary or repeated theft are now banished. But if we are unable to drive unprotected on our crumbling secondary roads, our towns and cities are safe, crime effectively dealt with at last by a return to the deportation policy of the nineteenth century.

The university colleague who takes Omega with total calmness is Daniel Hurstfield, but then, as professor of statistical palaeontology, his mind ranges over a different dimension of time. Like the God of the old hymn, a thousand ages in his sight are like an evening gone. Sitting beside me at a College feast in the year when I



GRAHAM BAKER

was wine secretary, he said: "What are you giving us with the grouse, Faron? That should do very nicely. Sometimes I fear you are a little inclined to be too adventurous. And I hope you have established a rational drinking-up programme. It would distress me, on my deathbed, to contemplate the barbarian Omegas making free with the College cellar."

I said: "We're thinking about it. We're still laying down, of course, but on a reduced scale. Some of my colleagues feel we are being too pessimistic."

"Oh, I don't think you can possibly be too pessimistic. I can't think why you all seem so surprised at Omega. After all, of the four billion life forms which have existed on this planet, three billion, nine hundred and sixty million are now extinct. We don't know why. Some

by wanton extinction, some through natural catastrophe, some destroyed by meteorites and asteroids. In the light of these mass extinctions it really does seem unreasonable to suppose that *Homo sapiens* should be exempt. Our species will have been one of the shortest lived of all, a mere blink, you may say, in the eye of time. Omega apart, there may well be an asteroid of sufficient size to destroy this planet on its way to us now."

He began loudly to masticate his grouse as if the prospect afforded him the liveliest satisfaction.

● P.D. James' *The Children of Men* is published by Faber on Sept 28 (£14.99).

Tomorrow: *Doctor Criminal* by Malcolm Bradbury

The lost world at one's fingertips

I have never lingered in cosmetics halls. In fact, I have never really understood what they are for. Why do they invariably lurk at the entrance of department stores, blocking one's progress to the real business inside? Is it a subtle fumigation process? Or is the idea to soften you up? The luxuriant chrome and lights, the shrill exciting perfumes, the gallons of moisturiser (in tiny pots) — I figure that this sensual riot is designed to trip up the women, and remind them that shopping is basically self-flattery and treats. By the time you actually buy something, you see, you feel so madly feminine that you shell out wildly for an extra tube of bath sealant.

But I am only guessing, because personally I always draw a deep breath at the threshold to the shop, take a last memorising look at my list ("Draino, Cat-flap accessories: Something for getting Ribena stains out of sofa") and then wifle quickly and invisibly between the little counters, tacking adroitly the alien sea of feminine frippery with my eyes half-closed against the unaccustomed glamour of it all. I'll pause nervously to examine a lipstick, and a lady asks "Can I help you?" I freeze, and then scuttle sharply to the lifts.

But suddenly, a few weeks ago, I felt an urge to paint my fingernails. It was weird and unaccountable. One minute I was quite normal and stable, attempting to play a well-regulated game of hide and seek with cats who can't (or won't) count to 20.

And the next, I was overtaken by an access of femininity, humming "I Enjoy Being a Girl" with brio, and breeding into cosmetics halls demanding a range of nail colours and offering to trade unwanted cat-flap accessories by way of payment. Funny how life can change.

Single life suddenly looked quite different, you see: I caught a glimpse of another world, originating in the sort of TV advertisement where pink gauze curtains billow sensuously in a boudoir full of white light and a woman with fantastic hair pampers herself with a beauty product (or tampons). Most people probably regard nail varnish as either functional or tacky, but to me it acquired the force of revelation. Previously the idea of pampering myself meant watching the *EastEnders* omnibus when I had already seen both episodes in the week. But now it meant inhabiting an aura of solitary voluptuousness, spending whole yummy evenings watching paint dry.

SINGLE LIFE

Lynne Truss on the siren call of the cosmetic counters



Now, the interesting thing about nail polish is that it comes without instructions. Did you know this? This was my first setback, really. This was one from which I never properly recovered. The other interesting thing is that nail polish remover, if you splash it about too liberally, removes polish quite indiscriminately — from your best sandals, for example, and your

chest of drawers. Also, it is not a good idea to put used cotton buds, soaked with nail polish remover, directly on a mahogany dining-table, because not only does the surface mysteriously acquire pits and scars, but the lacinations have white hair growing out of them, which won't come off again, ever.

Within minutes of starting my new regime, I had run up damages to an approximate replacement value of £1,200. But I was not down-hearted. I had applied a transparent goo of base-coat to all of my fingernails (including the right-hand ones, which were tricky) and was now ready to drink sherbet, eat Turkish delight, and watch an American mini-series until the next stage. "I'm strictly a female female," I sang. "Da da dum di da Dum de dee." I picked up the remote control from the carpet and was surprised to discover that a layer of speckled gunk had attached itself to all the nails that had come in contact with the floor. Spit. Peering at the other hand (which looked OK), I cautiously tapped all the nails with a finger to check they were dry. They weren't.

Three hours later my fifth attempt at a base-coat was almost dry, but I was feeling strangely detached from my surroundings.

because I had just spent a whole evening not using my fingers. Every impulse to pick up a tissue, or stroke the cat, or wipe hair from my eyes had been followed once (with disastrous results) and thereafter strenuously denied. At one point, the phone had rung, and after a period of whimpering with indecision I had answered it by picking up the receiver between my elbows and then dropping it on the desk, in a manner reminiscent of thriller heroines tied to kitchen chairs. "Hello?" it said faintly from the desktop. "Help!" I yelled, kneeling beside the receiver, and waggling my fingers like a madwoman. "Hello?" it said again, and went dead.

Eventually I took the whole lot off again, partly because the removal process was the only one I was good at, partly because I realised that novice nail-painting is not something to be attempted alone, after all. It requires the attendance of slaves. I did a swift impression of Lady Macbeth (damned spot, and all that), and went to bed. And there I dreamed of waltzing through bright cosmetics halls, dressed in pink gauze, carrying bags and bags of lovely self-indulgent stuff for getting Ribena stains out of the sofa.

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Triumph on a plate for British baritone

In the latter part of the Salzburg Festival there was at last one opera production that Gerard Mortier and his supporters could with justification claim as a truly grown-up success—Salome conducted by Christoph von Dohnányi and directed by Luc Bondy. After the dress rehearsal, which is what the truly smart attend in Salzburg, the buzz went round about the young British bass-baritone Bryn Terfel's sensational Jokanaan, with many a "not since the young Hans Hotter" encomium. Catherine Malfitano had not sung out in the title role, and so came up on the inside, as it were, on the first night. By the second performance on Sunday they made an overwhelmingly powerful pair of antagonists.

Malfitano, a noted Butterfly (and still basking in the fame of her "real time" televised Tosca) has a really good edge to her essentially lyric soprano, one that projects easily over even Strauss's orchestra; she is also petite and an instinctively communicative actress, a natural, therefore, for Salome. She and Terfel's Jokanaan—a caged animal towering over her with distinctly equivocal reactions to the challenge of her sexuality, struck sparks off each other of a peculiarly disturbing intensity. Terfel's singing was indeed sensational, heroic of timbre, vividly dramatic of delivery. Every opera-house manager in the audience was mentally marking him down as their next Wotan; let us pray he says no for the next ten years.

Erich Wonder's sombre set suggested that Herod was busy constructing a bunker beneath his palace. Jokanaan was imprisoned beneath a concrete slab that had played havoc with the parquet flooring. Within it, Bondy played the piece as an intimate family drama. There were no extras, and Jews (lightly caricatured) and Nazarenes (blond and wholesome—some irony intended) entered only when the music demanded it.

The problem is that much of the motivation depends on the action being played out in public, but this was made up for by the concentration of Salome's interplay with Herod (Kenneth Riegel) and the elegantly dangerous Herodias of Hanna Schwarz. The chaste dance was with seven veils and nothing to do with removing them; far more tension was generated by Salome's gradual unveiling of the head, which came gift-wrapped in a cloth dripping with fresh blood. The final

Bryn Terfel's success as Jokanaan in a stunning Salome has been the sensation of the Salzburg Festival, reports Rodney Milnes

scene, rapturously sung by Malfitano, was truly disgusting.

Dohnányi's conducting came as a surprise, after his memorably delicate, filigree reading at Covent Garden three years ago. Here he presided over a traditional, tub-thumping account of the score which was almost unbearably loud in the Kleines Festspielhaus. Maybe the Vienna Philharmonic players have it written into their contract that they need not play at less than *forte* in Salzburg. If so, the contract needs swift renegotiation.

This new Salome is a co-production with the Brussels Opera, Mortier's former fief, and it will be seen later in Chicago. Co-productions are new here, and not over-popular: audiences feel that high ticket prices should guarantee a certain exclusivity, but even in Salzburg financial realities must reign. There was much lip-curling in advance over the Ursel and Karl-Ernst Herrmann production of La finta giardiniera, which also came from Brussels and has already been to America: why should Salzburg put up with Mortier's cast-off?

In the event this early Mozart was, musically at least, a high point of the festival, trustingly conducted by Sylvain Cambreling and played with blithe spirit by the Mozarteum Orchestra. The cast was truly festive: Anne Sofie von Otter radiant in the trouser-role, Joanna Kozłowska as the eponymous fake gardener, Laurence Dale as her homicidal admirer, Malvina Major splendidly bossy as his fiancée, Ugo Benelli bringing true Italian dash to the Mayor, with Elzbieta Szmyka and Dale Dunning as the servants. I cannot imagine them being bettered.

The main thing is, the audience in the charming little Landestheater absolutely loved the performance, all four-and-a-half hours of it in a commendably full edition—that is what festivals are for. The

Herrmann's production was not to all tastes: fussy, farcical, and presided over by a cute, minute but mature woodland sprite, whose addition to the cast list raised any number of debatable "isms". And to play the murderous Count as a complete tiny right from the start (he fell in a ditch in his entrance aria and had to start again) is to avoid most of the issues of the piece. But it looked pretty and was carefully lit.

The festival's one grave disappointment, to put it mildly, was From the House of the Dead, Claudio Abbado, conducting as though Janáček's opera were being performed in some nightmare edition by Respighi, made no apparent effort to control the balance in the Grosses Festspielhaus: the Vienna Philharmonic let rip and gave the score the full Mantovani sheen, through which the voices occasionally emerged.

The only member of the cast to make much impression was the American bass-baritone Monte Pederson, who managed to convey some of the agony of Shishkov's narration: Philip Langridge (Skuratov) and Barry McCauley (Luka) were defeated, wastefully so, by the orchestra and by cross direction.

Janáček's gaudy opera was staged by Klaus Michael Gruber in semi-abstract decor (Eduardo Arroyo) chic, cool, post-modern and utterly empty, all effect and no cause. It was as though one of the key masterpieces of and about the 20th century were being sanitised, petrified and made acceptable to a Salzburg audience, to my mind an act of gross artistic betrayal.

The festival's only operatic nod in the direction of the Rossini bicentenary was a pair of concert performances of Tancredi, deprived for music-political reasons of its two stars, Marilyn Horne and Edita Gruberova. Horne apparently declined to perform the original and infinitely superior happy ending, and Gruberova declined to perform without Horne.

As it happened, that much under-rated soprano Nelly Múrcio provided some of the week's loveliest singing as Armida. She has everything you need for Rossini: a beautiful and expressive voice, style, taste and technique. A triumph! Horne's substitute was the young Vesselin Kasarova, who had earlier sung Antio in Tito. There is much potential here, and I hope the rave reception she was given for saving the show will not impede steady development.



Head hunted: Catherine Malfitano in the title role and Bryn Terfel as Jokanaan in Luc Bondy's staging of Salome

EDINBURGH: Benedict Nightingale on Fringe theatre, and David Robinson (right) on early highlights of the film festival

A nose for the rough stuff



Seldom can a chap have been more provocatively challenged than Tom Mannion, playing the title role in *Cyrano de Bergerac* (Traverse). His boisterous sprouts from his face in a great bloated blend of toadstool, jellyfish, dangling testicle and embryonic bap; and, like the rest of Gerry Mulgrew's production, it is a refreshing corrective to recent revivals of Rostand's play. True, this is a surprisingly romantic piece, but it is supposed to be about love and war. I have seen Cyrano who loved like narcoleptics, fought like curates and sported cutesy elongated little beaks, more likely to promote dalliance than disgust.

No chance of such sentimentalities when the Scots company, Communicado, comes bursting onstage, all physical bravado and humorous derring-do. Edwin Morgan, the translator, may come up with some odd rhymes ("foible" with "mible"), but his brash contemporary lingo seizes the attention, especially when put across in Glaswegian accents.

Where Christopher Fry expected Rostand's hero to warn the foe with whom he is duelling that "the blade begins to flir", Mannion growls "it's kebabs time" and means it. His is a passionate, dangerous Cyrano, with his wild-man hair and glittering eyes: a tough warrior and, when he surreptitiously substitutes for Kenneth Glenaan's dumb Christian in the love-scenes



Malcolm Shields as Valvert; Tom Mannion as Cyrano

with Sandy McDade's Rosane, a genuinely desolate woe, almost whimpering with the pain of deprivation.

Of course, the whole process goes too far. That is apparent from the moment the fashionable Hotel de Bourgogne is revealed as a makeshift fairground in which roughnecks in tuxedos buy ice-creams from girls with trays. It is even more evident when Cyrano's Gascon noblemen swagger onstage in biker jackets. But the production, raw and raucous though it may be, still makes us aware of what has too often been missing from the play: inventiveness, energy, immediacy. In short, life.

The Traverse may recently have switched operations from a building thrown together by Esau to one custom-built by Jacob; but its two auditoria still have an informal, box-like look, and the theatre's management has taken particular

care to fill them with rude, robust work. Take a not-uncharacteristic moment in Simon Donald's *Life of Stuff*, which is to be found, like *Cyrano*, in the black limbo of Studio One. Would you believe a Glasgow hood giving a credulous pothead a "sweetie" that is actually a sliced-off toe, and then pulling a do-it-yourself drill from his holster and holding it, quietly buzzing, at the throat of his next naked victim? Would you think me sadistic if I said that the incident is also very funny?

Donald is quite a find, a dramatist who can create a world that is gruesome, comic and utterly distinctive. It is one of dim girls looking for ecstasy and holding it, quietly buzzing, at the throat of his next naked victim? Would you think me sadistic if I said that the incident is also very funny?

Donald is quite a find, a dramatist who can create a world that is gruesome, comic and utterly distinctive. It is one of dim girls looking for ecstasy and holding it, quietly buzzing, at the throat of his next naked victim? Would you think me sadistic if I said that the incident is also very funny?

the downbeat. What will happen to the apprentice gangster appalled to find that when he thought he was burning a van to get the insurance he was actually incinerating a nightclub owner trussed up in the back? Will he be killed by the heavy with the power drill, the eczema problem and the unhappy childhood memories? Or will the victim be the swaggering yuppie whom both men deferentially regard as their boss?

Whether the Glasgow underworld is as muddled or as vicious as this, I cannot say. But with Stuart McQuarrie, Brian McCauley and Duncan Duff gamely battling it out, John Mitchell's crisp, sardonic production somehow retains credibility. So does another of the more admired efforts on this year's Fringe, Paul Merrier's *Shuffle*, which involves an even more barbaric subculture: amateur soccer in the Irish outbreak.

The Passion Machine, as Merrier's company is aptly called, has only to bounce and clatter onstage for us to wonder why they aren't thrashing Arsenal instead of losing to no-hopie teams, so loud, pugnacious and disciplined is the acting. Their fortunes improve with a new manager, Eamonn Hunt's *Kagan*, one of those grubby, disappointed business and angry, alcoholic dreamers often to be found in Irish plays. He provides most of the human interest, but the other 11 actors, in their black shirts and anachronistic baggy white shorts, offer the eye-grabbing excitement. I have to say that I enjoyed their ferociously imaginative miming of matches far more than the draw between Chelsea and Oldham that I saw at Stamford Bridge the other day. But that may be a comment on English football.

Despite a constant battle with woefully inadequate funds, the Edinburgh film festival has a record of launching new talent and new films—Fassbinder, Wenders and Almodóvar: *My Beautiful Laundrette* and *A Fish Called Wanda*.

In 1958 the festival featured Roman Polanski's brilliant debut short, *Two Men and a Wardrobe*. Thirty-five years on, a surprise screening of Polanski's new *Bitter Moon* demonstrates that loyalty to former discoveries does not always pay off. In the course of a cruise, a polite young Englishman (Hugh Grant, the best thing in the film) is button-holed by a bitter, sardonic cripple who, with Ancient Mariner persistence, unfolds the unseemly tale of his sadistic sexual life and his tormented marriage. In the hands of a Buried, the story could have been funny and satirical. Polanski turns it into an embarrassing, personal confession, excruciating tedious at 150 minutes.

Ian Sellar better justifies Edinburgh's faith. Sellar first appeared at the festival years ago with a film school short, *Albert's Memorial*, and again in 1989 with *Venus Peter*. His new film, *Prague*, is a model

Faith in the past

of European collaboration, filmed in Czechoslovakia with French and German stars, Sandrine Bonnaire and Bruno Ganz, and a pleasant new Scottish actor Alan Cumming. The anecdote is slight and stylishly charming: a young man arrives in Prague in search of a fragment of film of his forebears, killed by the Nazis; but becomes involved in the emotional politics of the film archive. It is anybody's guess if charm and whimsy alone will win the commercial acceptance at which *Prague* aims.

A Briton in America, Michael Apted, presents an unusual double incident at Ogala, produced by Robert Redford, is a fast, straight-to-the-point inquest into the conviction of Leonard Peltier, a member of the American Indian Movement, for the murder of two FBI agents on Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota in 1975. Recording Peltier's

own convincing case, and the deep-rooted prejudices of many of the white lawyers and police involved, Apted appears to expose a terrible miscarriage of justice.

The case and the documentary are the inspiration of Apted's feature, *Thunderheart*, actually shot at the same reservation. Val Kilmer plays an FBI man cynically chosen to investigate a murder on the reservation, on account of his part-Indian blood. The shameful, third-world social condition of the Indians and the abuses of white racism are shown unsparingly, even if John Fusco's script in the end is side-tracked into mysticism and an evasive, romantic denouement—a wish-dream of Indian revolt.

The biggest successes with Edinburgh audiences have been, inevitably, Baz Luhrmann's unmitigated *Strictly Ballroom* and, less predictably, David Atwood's *Wild West*, a modest British film which makes up in exuberance what it lacks in polish. Its innovation is to see Pakistani life in Southall not in terms of social problems, but through the eyes of ordinary daft kids with unlikely but unquenchable ambitions to be Country and Western stars.



Bruno Ganz in Ian Sellar's Prague: the film is a model of European collaboration

ARTS BRIEF

Winner's winners

NEVER again can it be said that the great barons of the film and television world do not care about those at the bottom of the pile. The film director Michael Winner and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts have just announced a new award for deserving lower ranks—those bearing such titles as "runner", "best boy" and "general junior assistant". Called the Michael Winner/BAFTA Award for the Best Beginner, it will provide an annual £5,000 cash prize, together with £1,000 each for two runners-up.

The first winner will be announced in September 1993. Winner is funding the award himself. "One thing I know, having worked as an employer in motion pictures for 37 years, is that there are people right at the bottom, many of whom do an absolutely stunning job that has not been acknowledged."

Ruffled feathers

AT English National Ballet the swans are getting agitated. First the company's artistic director, Ivan Nagy, announced that he was going to mount his own new production of *Swan Lake*, replacing the Natalia Makarova staging that has since been dropped. Now, Nagy says he is bowing out of the new production, which will be choreographed instead by the Russian ballerina Raissa Struchkova. According to the company, Nagy's change of heart is due to "personal reasons".

Struchkova, who retired from the stage in 1978, will use the sets and costumes from the 1982 *Swan Lake* designed by Carl Toms. *Swan Lake* is due to open in Southampton next February. ENB has also announced a new production of *The Sleeping Beauty*, choreographed by Ronald Hynd, and opening in autumn 1993.

Last chance...

THE National Gallery's "Brief Encounters" shows bring together two or three paintings that are related in some way. The latest juxtaposes the gallery's own *The Courtyard of a House in Delft* by Pieter de Hooch, and Vermeer's *The Little Street*, from the Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam. De Hooch emerges as the more humane, Vermeer as an early practitioner of Magic Realism. Other early views of Delft by Carel Fabritius and Egbert van der Poel are also included in the show, at the Sunley Room of the National Gallery (071-389 3321) until Monday.

CHAMBER MUSIC: Hilary Finch reports from Stavanger in Norway on an enterprising international festival which is now in its second year

Brief encounter brings lasting benefits

Stavanger's off-shore industry certainly oils the cultural wheels of this small coastal town on the south-west tip of Norway. But trams and storage tanks are not the only monuments to the identity of this increasingly cosmopolitan city.

perched above the docks, and with its offices in an old sardine-canning factory, is the Stavanger Konserthus, built in the mid-1980s as part of a leafy campus which also houses the Conservatory, Community Music School and, now in its second year, the International Chamber Music Festival.

Truls Mork, the cellist, and oboist Grigor Zubicky, founded the festival to provide Norway with a summer focus on chamber music which it

lacked in comparison with its Nordic neighbours. The Conservatory offered the use of its buildings free, and a secure team of local sponsors was readily available. Within a year the books balanced, the Commune of Stavanger gave the festival a permanent place in its budget and, among musicians, word was getting around that this, too, was going to be yet another significant meeting place.

This year, Michael Collins played his clarinet in the

company of one of Europe's finest viola players, Tabea Zimmermann; members of the Allegri Quartet found themselves sharpening their wits in the presence of the outstanding young Czech cellist, Michaela Fukacova.

The late night concerts, in Stavanger's romantices cathedral, produced, characteristically, some of the liveliest music-making. Tchaikovsky's *Sonnet*, *Souvenir de Florence* packed the cathedral. The unusually clear and spacious

acoustic of the grey granite pointed up the playing of the Russian violinist, Sergei Stadler, second to Viktoria Mullova in the Sibelius Competition, first prize-winner in the 1982 Tchaikovsky Competition and, quite unjustifiably, virtually unknown in London.

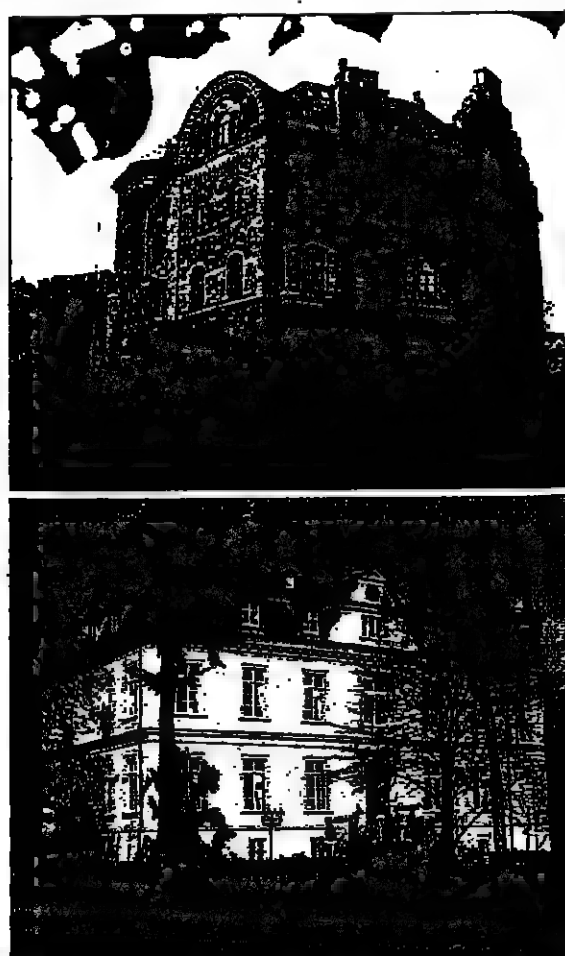
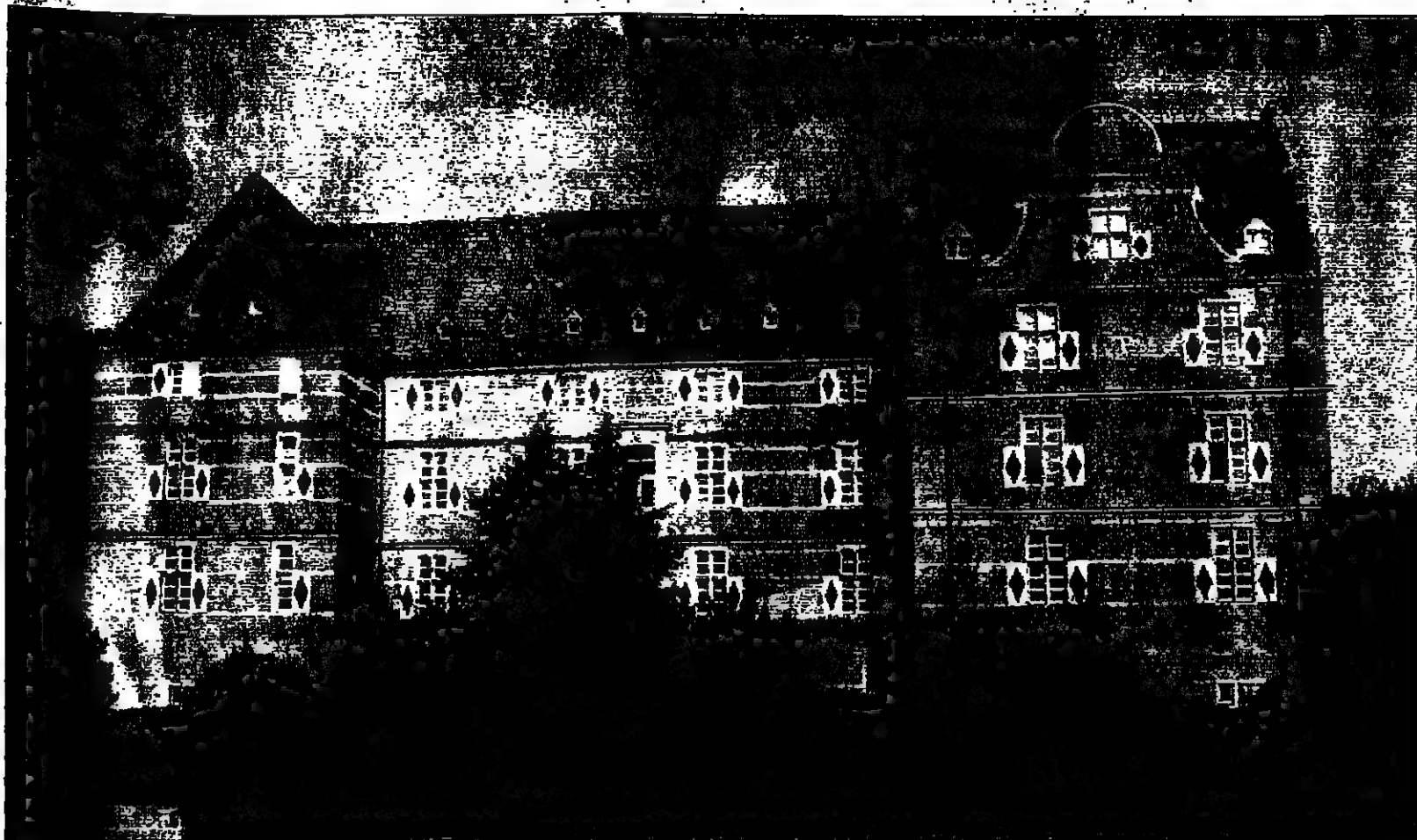
The evening before, Collins found himself in the company of Peter Carter and Roger Tapping (Allegri Quartet), Fukacova, Halkan Ehren, double bass, Ib Lianzy Ono, horn (both from the Stock-

holm Philharmonic), and bassoonist Dag Jensen for a vigorous Beethoven E flat Septet. This was an unpredictable, risk-taking performance of the type unique to a festival in which musicians previously unknown to each other are worked hard (27 concerts in nine days) in a perilously short space of time. The setup has its casualties, of course: a Poulenc trio and one or two lunchtime items were under-prepared.

The thorny Prokofiev Quintet Op 39, though, (featuring

Michael Collins, Tabea Zimmermann, and the incisive brilliance of American violinist Kurt Nikkanen) triumphed in a stimulating programme which also included Denisov's 1986 *Variation on a Theme by Schubert*. This piece introduced the 22-year-old, Moscow-born pianist Katia Skanavi who will tour Europe later this year with Yuri Bashmet's Moscow Soloists. The uncovering of powerfully imaginative musicianship like hers is just one of the achievements of a festival which is poised to become a vital part of the ever widening circuit of Nordic festivals.

The man who collects castles



Castles in the hand: Schloss Bedburg (left), Burg Rheineck at Bad Breisig (top right), and Burg Hemmersbach at Kerpen where their collector, Herbert Hillebrand, has his office in the banqueting hall

The banqueting hall of Burg Hemmersbach at Kerpen, near Cologne, is vast. Four big chandeliers swing from the beams over a table large enough to stage a banquet for 70 people. But even this room is too small to house anything larger than models of Herbert Hillebrand's monumental collection. For Hillebrand probably owns more castles in Germany today than anyone since the days of the Hohenzollerns.

He is so fond of this collection, however, that he has had large-scale models of part of it made and stuck on the walls and sloping roof of the hall, which he uses as an office, so that he can look up and enjoy them while he works. They are so many bird's-eye views of his treasures, which must inspire him in running his international property and building empire, as he sits at one corner of the huge dining table he uses as a desk. So, too, must the wall-to-ceiling photograph of his ever-growing family, which covers the end wall of the banqueting hall.

The models are of 13 of his network of 22 castles all over Germany, which he has bought and carefully restored over the past quarter of a century. He is currently negotiating to buy six more from among the 200 which have been put on the market in eastern Germany since unification. He thinks that by the time he has a total of 28 his urge to collect will be satisfied, but there is a look in his eye as he gazes up at his models that suggests he is too

Ian Murray on the ambitions of Herbert Hillebrand, a German property emperor who probably owns more moats and strongholds than anyone since the Hohenzollerns

hooked on the castle-buying bug ever to stop.

Herr Hillebrand was a local builder in Kerpen who was becoming a successful property developer in 1970 when he bought Burg Dörnrich, not far away at Düren. It was in a sorry state of repair but he fell in love with the romantic moated and turreted stronghold, built by the Herzog von Jülich in 1217, and decided to renovate it as a present for his eldest daughter, Svenja. He paid only DM100,000 for it — in those days the equivalent of about £10,000 — but he had to find another million to restore and equip it with central heating and an indoor swimming pool — a non-authentic luxury which he has installed in every castle he has collected.

The renovation was such a success that he was inspired to go on. He decided, too, that it was unfair for just one of his children to have a castle. He set about finding one for each of them. A strong Catholic, who has become involved in charity work for orphans in South America, he has 13 children so far, including four adopted Colombian orphans. The youngest is just over a year old but she, like the rest of them, has a castle she can call her own. Some of his older children have already been given a second one.

The collection is not, however,

simply a rich man's expensive hobby. "It is not a hobby," he insisted.

"There is too much work and worry involved. It is much easier and more profitable to put up new buildings. But I do love the old buildings. If I could just do what I wanted, I would only restore old buildings."



They all have a turret of their own: Hillebrand with his children

Herr Hillebrand nevertheless aims to run his collection at a profit. His first priority when siding up whether to buy a castle or not is "How can we use it?" Only when he is satisfied that the renovated build-

ing would be able to make money does he take into consideration how beautiful it is, or where it is situated.

At the same time the final decision on whether to buy depends on whether or not he really likes the castle. "It is like with a woman. Some you look at and just say 'ja'."

the Rhine and a splendid fortress at Hamburg.

He said that it was easy enough to find castles for sale if you wanted one. "There are many, many castles in Germany and most of them belong to the local communities. They do not have the money these days to look after them and are keen to privatise if only they can find a buyer."

In most cases, he said, he had been able to buy the castles very cheaply, although a usual condition of the contract of sale is that he renovates. The task of restoring a castle to its former glory is made easier by the extensive documentation available in state archives. "We have very thorough archives, even in eastern Germany, which we can use." These usually detail precisely what the building was like when it was first built and it is therefore possible to recreate the original ideas of the architect.

Some of the best labour he finds in Poland these days. The Poles have a particular skill in making the ornate plasterwork ceilings which were frequently a feature of the castles' more gracious rooms.

The tax authorities provide an added incentive to restore. All investments to preserve buildings which are officially recognised as historic buildings qualify for a ten per cent tax rebate for ten years. This

means that anyone preserving such a structure can reclaim the full cost of restoration from the taxman over a decade. "You should tell the British about that idea. That might help there," Herr Hillebrand said.

Once the castle is restored, a process which can take two years or more, Herr Hillebrand rents it out. Sometimes the local authority which sold it to him in the first place takes it over again. The castles have a variety of new careers as hotels, museums, offices, old people's homes and the like. Inside each of those belonging to his children, however, there is a small area of living quarters which they can use if they want to one day.

At present, however, his whole family live at Kerpen, absentee landlords of the castle collection. Busy as he is, Herr Hillebrand scarcely has time to visit the properties, although he does get to know each of them intimately during the complicated restoration process. They all become, in their way, his children.

Which one of them would he want to keep if he had to sell all the rest? Which would he move to his desert island? An affable man, who answered every question with a smile, Herr Hillebrand was worried by that one.

He stood up and down his banqueting hall gazing up lovingly at his collection, pausing and signing in front of each of them. The choice was impossible, he frowned. "It would be too difficult," he said. "I would want all of them."

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

● **AMSTERDAM:** De Nederlandse Opera opens the 1992-1993 season with Saint-Saëns's *Samson et Delila*, a co-production with Bregenz Festspiele conducted by Hartmut Haenchen. The pious Samson is sung by William Cochran and the heathen Delilah by Catherine Keen. Het Muziektheater, Waterlooplein 22, 1011 PG Amsterdam. Tel: (010 31) 20 6255455. Aug 31, Sept 3, 6, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26.

● **GSTAAD:** The Gstaad-Saanenland Menuhin Festival at venues around the town. Performances include the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra under Sir Yehudi Menuhin on Aug 28, 29; *La traviata* conducted by Bruno Amaducci on Sept 5, and the London Symphony Orchestra under Michael Tilson Thomas on Sept 11, 12. Gstaad-Saanenland Menuhin Festival, c/o Verkehrsbüro, CH 3780 Gstaad. Tel (010 41) 3047173.

● **PARIS:** *Manifeste* at the Centre Georges Pompidou is an exhibition of everything from the years 1960 to 1990 collected by the centre. On the ground floor is a section on design, from aeroplanes to lemon-squeezers. On the upper floors there are innumerable art exhibits — some of which, in the Pop Art and Conceptual Art sections, deliberately make you laugh, such as pictures of visitors taken by hidden TV cameras which are like distorted mirrors. Plus the 1905 to 1960 collection, including works from the estate of Matisse's son, *Manifeste*, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris. Tel (010 33 1) 44781233. The main art exhibition runs until Nov 9, but some sections will close from Sept 28 onwards.

● **STRESA:** The *Settimane Musicali* continues into September. The events take place in theatres and churches around the beautiful town on the shores of Lake Maggiore and in the Palazzo Borromeo on Isola Bella, in the middle of the lake. Highlights include the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, Aug 30; the pianist Nikita Magaloff, Sept 7; and violinist Stéphane Tran Ngoc, Sept 12. *Settimane Musicali*, Via R. Bonghi 4, 28049 Stresa. Tel: (010 39) 323 31095/30459. Until Sept 15.

● **VIENNA:** *Caricature and Satire*. An exhibition of 500 years of satirical drawings includes work by Leonardo da Vinci, Hogarth, Goya, Toulouse-Lautrec, and Daumier. Kunsthaus Wien, Untere Weissenhofstrasse 13. Tel: (43 1) 7120495. Daily 10-7pm. From Aug 20 to Oct 18.

HEATHER ALSTON

MUSIC: CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Baroque with cows

At first, Daniel Spicka recalls, it seemed a preposterous idea in communist Czechoslovakia: a baroque music festival at the ornate chateau of Valtice, once seat of the princely Liechtenstein family.

"We are 400 yards from the Austrian border — there used to be guards with sub-machine guns standing over there," Spicka says, pointing to a hillside behind him, under the leaves of a centuries-old maple, a quintet in period-dress accompanies a harpsichordist on baroque instruments.

Extravagantly dressed guests file in and out of the brick wine-cellar where a sumptuous buffet is spread, and redine on the lawn drinking Valdic's own 1989 Pinot Noir. Now it is in its third season, the Baroque Summerfest at Valtice does not seem at all preposterous.

Spicka, who is an architect and collector of baroque instruments, combined forces with Radomir Nepřas, the chateau's chief restorer, to hold the first festival in 1989, when it was only an afternoon long. Now, over a period of eight days in August, visitors come from Prague, Vienna and London for a two-day programme of elegant baroque concerts, operas, picnics, feasts and fireworks. But Valtice is not a pure tourist event, since it is held as much for the 50-odd musicians as for the guests.

The leading early music expert, Jiri Koutouk of Prague's National Theatre Orchestra, is the music director. Scholars such as Professor Jan Smaczny of Birmingham University direct and produce the baroque operas and concerts. For a fortnight, the musicians live and work together at Valtice, much as court musicians must have done when Prince

Charles Eusebius von Liechtenstein sought to make his court the rival of the emperor's in Vienna, 65km away.

"It's exhilarating and exhausting," says Stephen Bull, a baroque violinist from London who directs the orchestra. "In eight days I've done 20 concerts. When we play on the lawn much of it is sight reading. Daniel refuses to tell us what to play. It's just as it must have been to be a court musician. The only person missing is Prince Liechtenstein."

A major attraction of the festival is the chateau itself. Released Soviet war prisoners, fearing Stalin would have them shot, seized the castle and made it a fortress, stabling cattle in the courtyard and damaging paintings, frescoes, furniture and rare books left behind by Liechtenstein.

Later, an agricultural co-operative took over the chateau, turning the theatre into a garage and burning the sets and costumes. But a massive restoration is under way, for behind the crumbling facades lie some of the finest interiors in the region.

Sometimes the antique jars with the modern. At the far end of the lawn, five magnificent spotted brown cows graze serenely around a massive oak under the lazy eye of a costumed cowherd, in a Gainsborough-like *tableau vivant*. On closer inspection, one finds that the cows are chained to the ground. Then as evening comes on, and the visitors ride off in horse-drawn carriages to watch Marco da Gagliano's opera *La Dafne* in the castle courtyard, a blue lorry from the local co-operative farm pulls up, and the cows are trucked back home.

PETER GREEN

New monuments for the Crimea?

Russian entrepreneurs are on the move to take over the old battlefields and cemeteries

The battlefields of the Crimea are being fought over once again. Free-market capitalism in Russia has created a new breed of cowboy: the Battlefield Tour Operator. Much to the irritation of the official Russian guide organisation, Intourist, these new entrepreneurs have been drawing up itineraries, booking buses and doing up the abandoned hotels that once provided de luxe summer residences for Party members, in an attempt to hijack the interest of British tourists in the area.

Causing the most anxiety, however, are their plans to refurbish British monuments and even to build some new ones. The cemeteries and memorials that once filled the landscape were destroyed by heavy bombing during the second world war, and the area is thus acutely short of "markers". Although none of the building plans have yet met with official approval by the British embassy or any of the British regimental associations, it is not for want of trying. Colonel Ivan Ivanov, one of the most celebrated of these new hucksters, has

drawn up plans for as many as five new British memorials. They were displayed in an exhibition he held in Sebastopol, timed to coincide with the visit of a number of British dignitaries to the area who he hoped might take him on.

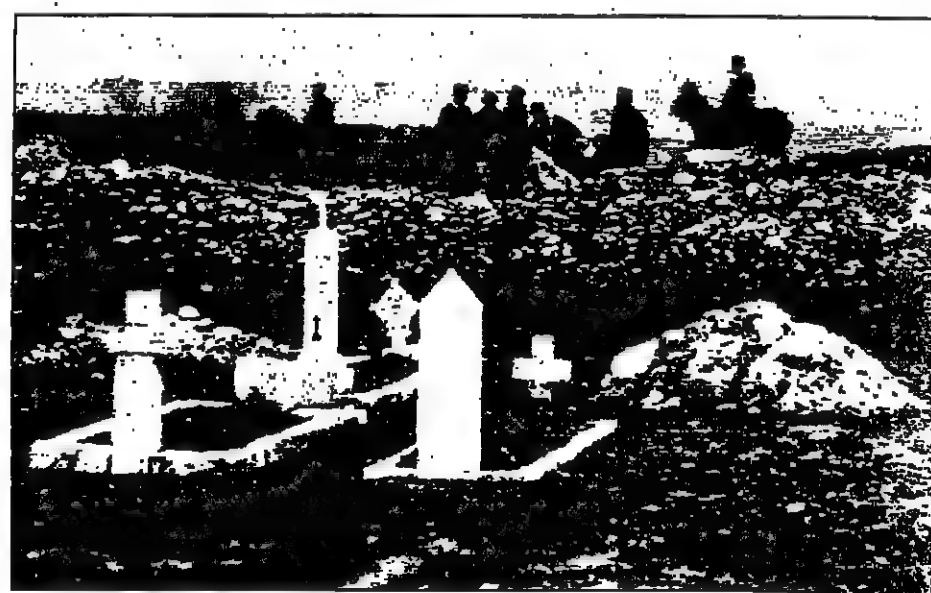
He also has plans to build a new Crimean war museum in the shape of a cross, and he wants to excavate one of the British ships that went down off the coast at Sebastopol on November 14, 1854, which is said to contain full bottles of whiskey. His most ambitious plan is to build a hotel right in the middle of the Balaklava battlefield.

"The trouble is, although they mean well, they are slightly misguided," says Lt Col Julian Lancaster, who is in charge of building a new official British memorial on Cathcart Hill which will open in October. "They wanted to recreate the cemeteries as they were before they were bombed, by just putting up new headstones without knowing where people were actually buried." Lt Col Lancaster is also worried that unless checked, the new entrepreneurs might start selling off

the surviving cannonballs, muskets and other items of historical interest.

Valmal Holt, director of Holt's Tours — Britain's longest established battlefields tour company — has been accused dozens of times by aspirant tourism magnates with flashy business cards. Although she describes some of their plans as "rather alarming" and not in keeping with British taste, which tends to be rather "purist" when it comes to battlefields, she applauds the fact that they are trying to promote new ideas. "The problem is there isn't room for dozens of Crimean war tour operators and conservationists, nor enough money. When I ask them how they intend to fund their projects their answer is always 'Money no problem', but who in Russia is going to support a plan to build memorials to the English, at a time when they can barely find enough to keep themselves alive?"

Certainly the irony of erecting monuments glorifying the military success of the opposition seems to have escaped these commercialists in their desperation for hard currency.



British officers on the lookout at Cathcart Hill: how will they be remembered?

There is an undeniable need for something more to be done to mark the area's historical importance. The memorial at Cathcart Hill will be the only one there. Meanwhile on the heights above the Alma there are broken headstones commemorating the Royal Welch Fusiliers who fell there, and even human bones lying on the surface of the ground. The North valley, the site of the Charge of the Light Brigade,

remains remarkably intact, as is the farm that formed Lord Raglan's HQ, but there is no guarantee that they will stay this way.

Despite their failure to secure much support for their own ideas, the new entrepreneurs have at least been allowed to help Colonel Lancaster with his current project. He has employed Russian workmen to build the obelisk because "the most important

thing as far as the Russians are concerned is to prove to potential investors in the West that Russian workmen funded by British money is a combination that can work, even if it is just on one war memorial". In fact they could not have chosen a better symbol to work on, or one more likely to inspire Western sympathy.

CATHERINE MILNER

ART: ITALY

Piero, Piero everywhere

His house now serves as an atmospheric display area and has opened its doors to an exhibition entitled *Piero's Sphere: Painting in Central Italy during the Age of Piero della Francesca*. It traces the rise of Piero's art and the way it spread beyond his native territory, where many of his greatest works remain, to the courts of Italy.

The celebrations offer an opportunity to view some of Piero's masterpieces, such as

an impressive *Resurrection* or the polyptych of *The Virgin of Pity and St Julian*, in the setting of the Val Tiberina landscape which provides the background for many of the artist's works. Works which inspired Piero, by artists such as Sassetta and Beato Angelico, are also on view.

Another part of the celebratory cycle, located in the magnificent Ducal Palace in Urbino, is *Piero and Urbino: Piero and the Renaissance*

Courts. Under the enlightened patronage of Duke Federico da Montefeltro, the duchy became a major political and cultural centre in the 15th century and kept Piero busy fulfilling court commissions. The most outstanding of these are the diptych portraits of the duke, portrayed in red against a peaceful landscape, and his duchess, Battista Sforza. They are splendid examples of Piero's calm, mathematical art.

From Sansepolcro and Urbino, it is only 20km to Arezzo, where Piero's most famous fresco, the *History of the Holy Cross*, decorates the chancel of St Francis' Church. A novel exhibition in the lower church, entitled *Through Piero's Eyes: Clothing and Jewellery in the Works of Piero della Francesca*, looks at the exquisitely detailed detail of the jewellery and clothes worn by the people depicted in the fresco.

and other major works. The bracelets, brooches and necklaces are recreated by the contemporary Italian jeweller Giulio Manfredi and include a faithful interpretation of the Queen of Sheba's diadem and a white-gold bracelet inspired by the rhythms of the fresco.

RUTH SULLIVAN

● In Piero's Sphere: Painting in Central Italy during the Age of Piero della Francesca. Curator: Piero della Francesca. Curator: Piero della Francesca. Curator: Piero della Francesca. All exhibitions until Oct 18.

Passionate apostle for the lexicon of love

Alice Thomson meets Jeanette Winterson, literary acrobat, uncompromising careerist and idealist about love

Here are the facts. She was born in 1959 and adopted as a baby by a Pentecostal Evangelical couple in Lancashire. In her mid-teens she had a romance with a girl, a fish-filletter. Her mother had her publicly denounced in the church and she was forced out of her home. She worked in a funeral parlour and as a domestic in a mental hospital before going to Oxford University and becoming a novelist. She has a personal astrologer and is an organic vegetarian. She owns a converted MG, two cats and is a lesbian.

Jeanette Winterson does not like facts. She prefers girls with webbed feet. A lady whose tears have turned to jewels. A family whose house has no floors so they spend their lives living on tightropes. A husband who gulps a vatful of poisoned milk and swells to such a size that he explodes.

Ms Winterson is the author of five novels, including *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, *The Passion*, and *Seeing the Cherry*. Her latest, *Written on the Body* is about love and passion, concentrating on the most physical and tangible aspects of relationships, but remaining sensual rather than erotic. The main character is sexual but far from unsexed and the litany of love affairs she runs through seem highly personal.

Ms Winterson refuses to confirm or deny whether the novel is based on personal experience. "None of my novels are autobiographical," she says. *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* is about a foundling brought up by Pentecostal parents who is forced out of her home for having a lesbian love affair, but this, as Ms Winterson explains does not make it autobiographical.

"My novels are stories and I will never for anyone sort out what happened and what didn't happen because the principle of my work is to suggest that we can never really know what did and didn't happen, that the boundaries between history and storytelling, between reality and dreaming, are always being blurred and muddled," she says.

What is certain is that Ms Winterson shares a house with her lover in Dartmouth Park, north London. She has a gentle demeanour and is slight but not frail. Her house is filled with delicate furniture and her soft Lancashire vowels echo around the sitting room. Like her novels her conversation does not follow a pre-determined course. She marries history to myth, aphorism to poetry and fairy tale to fact, but she always returns to love.

"Love is the driving human force, whether it is love in the passionate sense, filial or family love or love's obverse — hate. I am idealistic

about love. However it is debased or misinterpreted, it is a redemptive factor," she says. "To focus on one individual so their desires become superior to yours is a very cleansing experience."

Ms Winterson is concerned that relationships often founder on the clichés used to express passion and desire and hopes that her new novel will expand the lexicon of love, exploring uncharted linguistic territory, in an area where the literary paths are especially well trodden.

"Art is about tapping into the human condition and trying to define those emotions which best articulate emotions which best everyone. Resonance isn't about the answers, but finding a voice and a structure to your feelings," she says.

Although an intensely private

'Love is the driving human force, whether it is love in the passionate sense, filial or family love or love's obverse — hate'

person, she has an evangelical yearning to reach out to people and a gift for preaching which she learnt as a child brought up on a diet of the Bible and sermons. "A great many people write to me with their thoughts and questions. Women in particular need role models. I want to influence the way people think, to jolt them out of assumption and habit and let them discover their passions. I have a responsibility not to be shoddy or lazy in art or life."

Ms Winterson has no role model, but does admit to admiring Dolly Parton for being strong, doing what she wants and for inventing herself. She reads some poetry and pre-second world war writers, but of her own generation says: "They are deeply complacent and there is a lot of copy-cutting. Few writers achieve their own form and open up new landscapes and there has been a total turning back of any pleasure in language."

She believes that, like love, words can both release and suffocate. She is, first and foremost, an amazing literary acrobat and, despite occa-

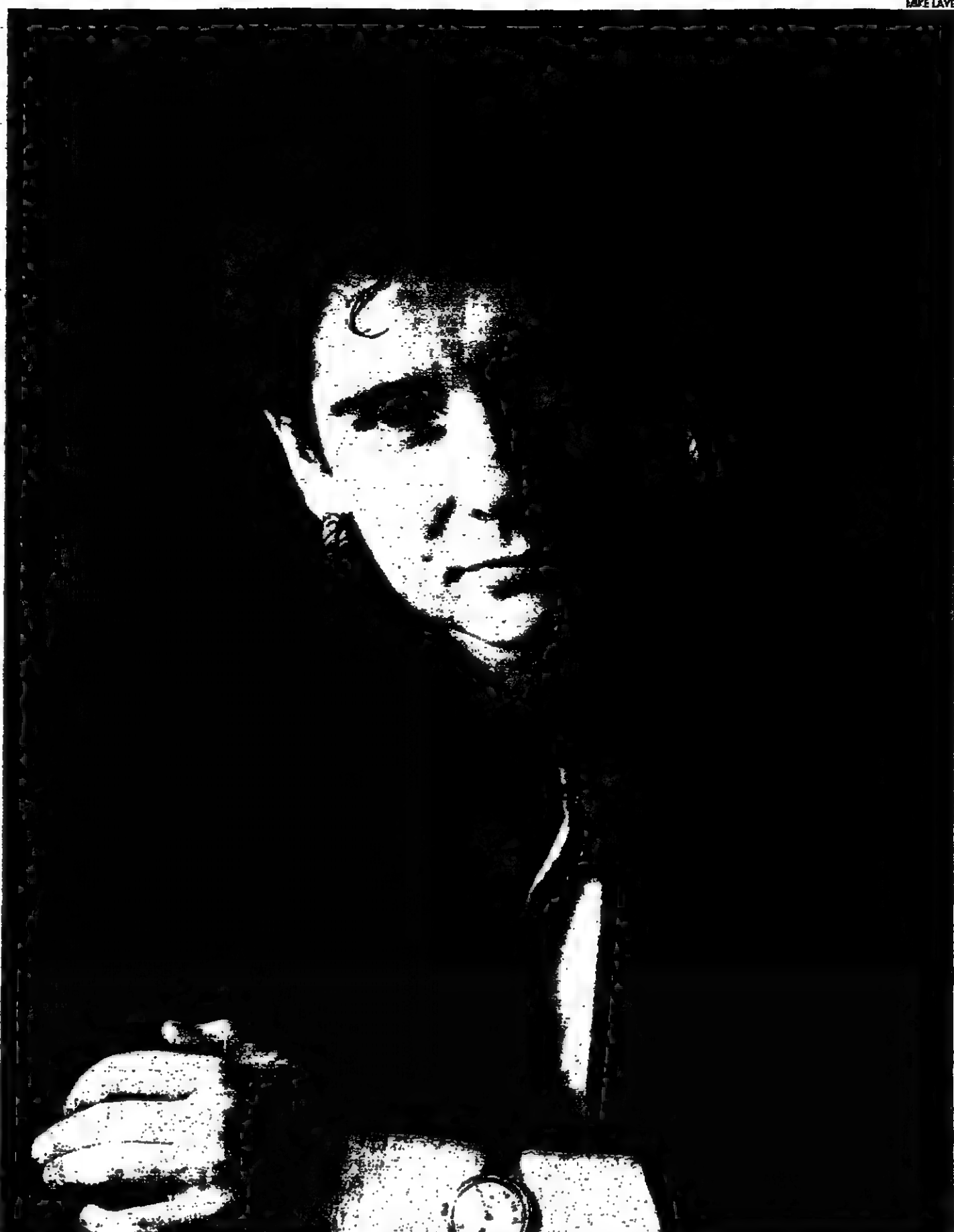
sionally appearing trite, seems able to make her stories, however fantastic, seem credible, as unusual language complements unusual situations. "I want to encourage language in all its complexity; that's what really excites me. Too often it is just sloppy and dirty," she says. "In the other arts you learn your craft first. Unfortunately language is the currency of everyday shopping lists. Writers need nothing, just pour out their experience and follow the rudiments of schoolboy grammar."

Not surprisingly, none of her close friends are writers. She has four good friends, all women — an actress, a publisher, a painter and an architect — who she turns to for support. But having been brought up by her mother to believe that she could save the world, her confidence in her own abilities has rarely wavered and extends beyond her own medium into television, newspapers and films.

She is best acquainted with television as *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* was made into a successful small screen drama series. She feels that she has managed to subvert the relentless realism of the medium and use it for her own ends, but is clearly still deeply suspicious of it, and refuses to own a television. "It's shoddy. We make fifth rate programmes when people deserve first rate ones. I can only make a certain number of programmes so most of the time there is nothing to watch. It would be better if the screens were blank," she says. As for newspapers, she is not prepared to read the "dunghill" of words that are churned out every day although she is prepared to write the occasional article.

Her attitude to films is less scathing but she still feels that they need the Winterson touch and has written a screen play, *Great Moments in Aviation* that will premiere at Cannes next year, about a black woman who comes to Britain in the late 1950s thinking it is the Promised Land. "It is about challenging your assumptions," she says.

This is typical Winterson. She believes that everyone should challenge themselves and is offering one advice on her career after an hour's acquaintance. "Everyone has potential. To compromise and turn your back on what you want is extremely damaging. In the Winterson world that cannot happen. You must keep developing yourself and see past your own full stops," she says. Her favourite characters are always pushing themselves forward. Flying off into the ether, dancing themselves into dizzy points of light, falling in love with beautiful women.



Role model woman: "I want to influence the way people think, to jolt them out of assumption... let them discover their passions"

As well as female beauty, Ms Winterson admires strong, wise women. They pepper her books, from the domineering mother in *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*, to the giant dogwoman in *Seeing the Cherry*. "I only work with women. I prefer their attitude, efficiency and calm," she says and calls herself a feminist though not a feminist writer. "We are still not in the post-feminist age. I am one of the few young women who has made it as a writer financially and internationally. Women aren't taken seriously until they are in their fifties."

She does not think these attitudes have alienated male readers and believes that her masculine charac-

ters are often role models (the two main ones so far are Jordan, the son of the dogwoman, an androgynous sort who dresses in petticoats, and Henri, an army cook who idolises Napoleon). "I wouldn't be naive enough to think that the males I come across on the street are sensitive, tender or loving," she says. "But I am prepared to put considerate men in my books because it may trigger something of the sort of man they would like to be."

"When I wrote about Jordan and Henri I got a lot of letters from young men, especially in the armed forces, confiding that they did cry in their bunks and feel insecure with

the he-man image. It may be that the macho conspiracy is so deep that men can't write about it. I don't know."

Ms Winterson only selectively engages in the outside world. On the rare occasions she is not working, her time is spent browsing in the British Library, cycling, looking after the cats, and seeing her friends. "I love my partner very much but she doesn't come first, work does," she says. "It wouldn't make any difference if I didn't see anyone or do anything. I would still be able to write."

She is prepared to enter the fray over certain issues and campaigns for Stonewall, the homosexual pres-

sure group, because, "someone needs to fight for our rights", but she dislikes being famous. "If I want to buy courgettes I do not want to be asked about art or have traces of my book quoted at me."

Her first four novels have brought both excellent reviews and financial independence, but if her fame fell away, she could easily leave her liberal, comfortable world. "I would live anywhere to keep on writing," she says. As Napoleon says in *The Passion*: "I go on writing so that I will always have something to read."

Written on the Body will be published by Jonathan Cape on September 10 (£13.99).

Far from being liberated by democracy, the Russian professional woman is finding life even more harassing

Sweet talk, sour lives

"I'll pay," whispered the elegant American to Ella Levdanskyaya, when he realised his sweet talking was getting him nowhere. Ms Levdanskyaya, a teacher of English in a Moscow secondary school earns extra income as a guide-translator for business entrepreneurs in the new Russia. She describes the western commercial types as "Joint Adventurers".

The end of the planned economy has meant unemployment for many professional women. Nowadays, anything goes. Corruption, pimping and prostitution were not unknown in Russia before perestroika. It is just that now they have come out of the closet.

The American assured 39-year-old Ms Levdanskyaya, divorced with a 14-year-old daughter, that he could have had any of the other women in the room. However, having employed her as a translator all day, she and she alone had become the object of his lust.

Sexual harassment has always existed, in Russia now it is endemic. Ms Levdanskyaya says she knows of one case where an office job was advertised and a very pretty woman was selected from a huge crowd of over-qualified hopefuls. She found she was expected to be the "office wife", serving her four male co-workers sexually, as well as doing the shorthand and typing.

"It is almost impossible for a western woman to understand the stress and pressure of a Russian woman's life," Ms Levdanskyaya says. "Western people disappoint me."

Her translating and guiding work gives her the advantage of meeting and befriending foreigners and now she has the freedom and luxury to travel. She stayed in Surrey this summer with an English woman she befriended in



Images of indulgence: the real luxuries for women in the new Russia are female friends and happy marriages

Moscow, her daughter Eugene attended a local state school for a month. Talking about her life in Moscow over coffee with a group of women in west London, she was amazed by their sensitivities to class distinctions. Ms Levdanskyaya's conversation is riddled with references to class, which still powerfully effects the quality of every Russian's life. She feels no responsibility for the labouring classes, nor any altruistic zeal to help them raise themselves.

She spoke to several women's organisations during her visit and relates how a "Third World" woman advised her. "Tell the Russians not to destroy the statues of Stalin," Of course," Ms Levdanskyaya says. "The Soviet Union was the best friend of Third World countries, and now they feel neglected, but when these women visited the USSR, they were shown only the best things. Telling her how terrible life can be in Britain for black and Asian people cuts no ice with

Ms Levdanskyaya. "Life is terrible for all people in Russia; particularly for women." Contraception and family planning are one of the worst problems. The men hate condoms which are, in any case, not easily available. Ms Levdanskyaya is lucky: through knowing the right person, giving the doctor a present, and sending the Swiss supplier a record of her periods, she has now been fitted with her second Swiss copper "T". Russian coils are large and terribly painful to insert.

The Pill is used mainly by married women or women in stable relationships: "Russian men are very spoiled."

Nevertheless, Russian women tend to stand by their men. They would never throw them out, Ms Levdanskyaya says, sex is one of the few pleasures the women have.

A British sex therapist in one group of women she spoke to could not understand why Russian women did not form self-help groups. Said Ms Levdanskyaya, with some irritation, "If I had time for that I

would spend it giving private lessons to earn a little more money for my daughter". In a society where most have very little, envy and competition often sour potential relationships. Female companionship and friendship are a luxury. According to Ms Levdanskyaya, Russians are sexually prudish. Lesbianism "doesn't exist". The mere mention of Martina Navratilova elicits scorn, contempt and titers. Homosexual acts between consenting males are illegal.

Ms Levdanskyaya's English language students were reluctant to study Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Grey*, solely on the basis of Wilde's homosexuality, which was described in the preface written in the 1980s to have been caused by the excesses of a bourgeois lifestyle.

Ms Levdanskyaya studied English linguistics and has a degree from the Moscow Institute of Foreign Language, now called the Moscow Institute of Linguistics. Her career has been a little miracle in itself as she not only had to overcome the disadvantages of being a woman, but also of being Jewish, although her Jewishness is confined to her ethnic heritage.

Ms Levdanskyaya, married for seven years, has been divorced since 1986. "We have a lot of very unhappy marriages because of the problems of economic dependence and housing."

One thing that really fascinated her during her trip to England: "All those middle-aged couples holding hands and kissing each other hello and goodbye. They must have been married for 25 or 30 years. Is that really possible in the west?"

JUDITH STEINER
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Go west, young water flea

Where clam and crayfish reigned, quagga and ruffe are moving in. Now the Americans are out to stop the colonisation of their lakes. Nick Nuttall reports

The Great Lakes of North America are being invaded: plants and animals from Europe and elsewhere are pushing out native species and damaging habitats.

Many of the invaders are thought to have arrived by ship, sucked up from their native homes as ballast, to be discharged later into the water and estuaries of Canada and the United States. Other invaders have also come in ships, but as rock and sand ballast.

An estimated 136 alien plants and animals are now in the Great Lakes, with more than one-third of them having arrived in the past 30 years, an increase which coincides with the opening of the St Lawrence Seaway, according to a report by the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission, based in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Native animals and plants have already been victims of pollution from man-made chemicals dumped in the waters by lakeside factories and chemical plants. In Lake Ontario fishermen go armed with books that detail the age of species, such as lake trout, based on their size. If the fish caught is over a certain age, it is either thrown back or put out with the rubbish at home: the catch is calculated to have built up unhealthy amounts of metals and other potentially poisonous pollutants in its system.

Added to such man-made prob-

lems, some scientists fear that the arrival and consolidation of the alien life forms, which have few or no natural predators in their new home, could further push many native creatures to the brink of extinction.

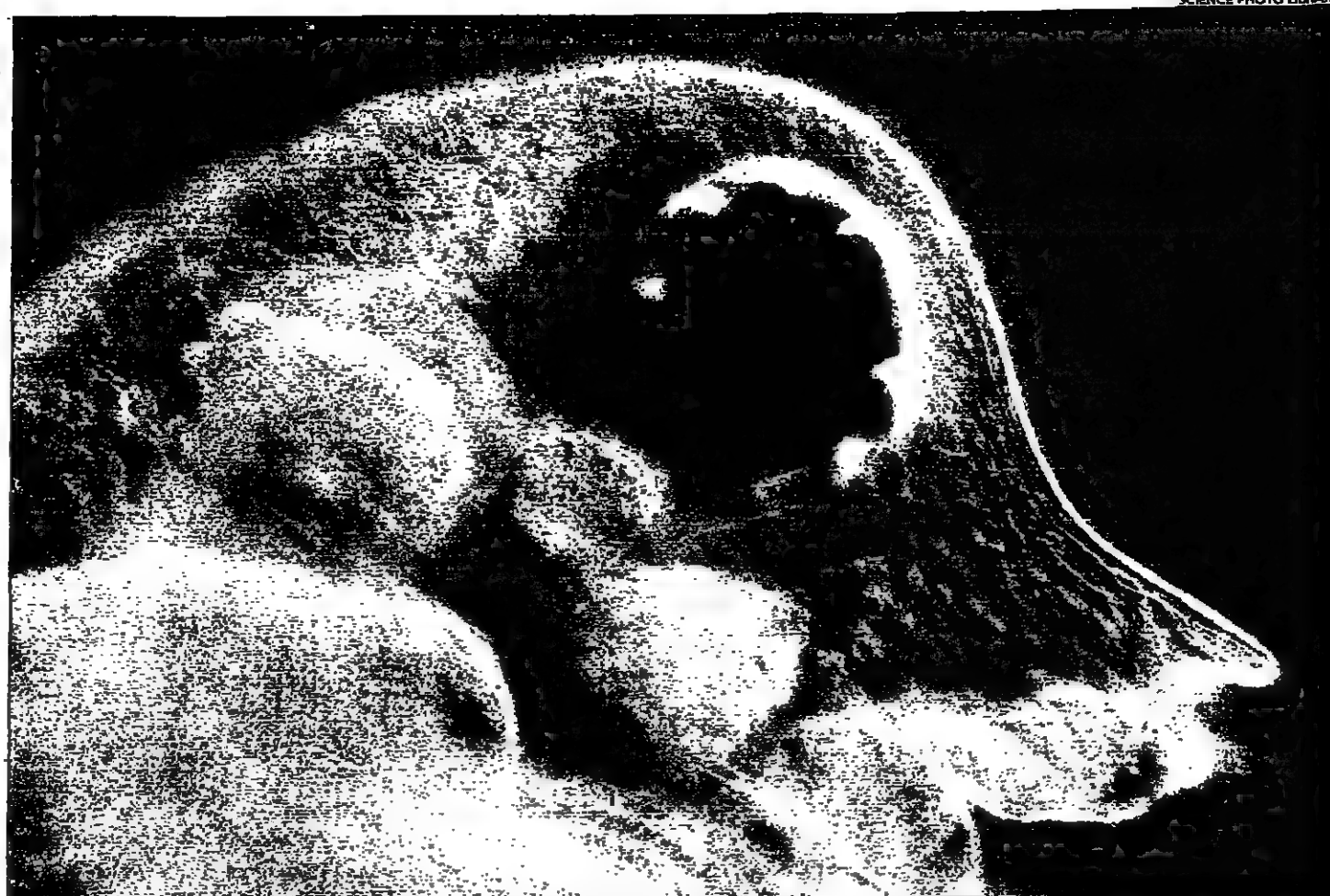
The most widely-publicised invader is the European zebra mussel, *Dreissena polymorpha*, which is believed to have been dumped by an unidentified vessel into Lake St Clair in 1986.

Since then, the mussels, which are 1 1/2 in long, have colonised thousands of miles of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario, even as far as the Hudson, Susquehanna and Mississippi rivers, killing native clams and crayfish, often by suffocation.

Controlling the spread, a job currently being undertaken by the United States fish and wildlife service, is expected to cost £2.6 billion over ten years.

Now a new mussel threat has been identified in Lake Ontario by scientists at Cornell University's biological field station in Bridgeport, New York. Specimens were first trawled up from deep waters of the lake's southern basin in 1990, but were dismissed as being deformed zebra mussels.

However, studies in the Erie Canal prompted scientists to take a longer look and they have concluded that the bivalve is a different, alien, species. This has been con-



Crustacean at risk: the *Daphnia*, an important source of food for small native fish, is now a prey for the European spiny water flea

firmed by genetic tests. It has been christened "quagga", after an extinct relative of the zebra mussel.

Studies undertaken in June have found quaggas, which can be 20 to 50 per cent bigger than zebra, living in large numbers among zebra mussels, a life-style which has been observed in the Black Sea and which offers clues to the origin of the ship which brought them to the Great Lakes.

Bivalves are not the only threat to the natural wildlife of the Great Lakes. Scientists are also becoming worried about an alien fish called the ruffe, *Gymnocephalus cernuus*, which is a member of the perch family and was first seen in 1987 in the St Louis estuary of western Lake Superior, near Duluth-Superior harbour, the second busiest port of the Great Lakes.

According to a report in the magazine *Science News*, the fish is

an aggressive competitor that tends to dominate any ecosystem it enters.

Nearly two million are believed to be spawning in the estuary and ruffe have been found in Thunder Bay, Lake Ontario, and parts of the St Louis River, where their arrival has been accompanied by a fall in species such as the walleye.

The success of the alien, which is 5 in long, is considered too small to be of interest to fishermen, is believed to be linked with its early maturity and ability to spawn in a variety of conditions.

Another unwelcome immigrant is the spiny water flea. This tiny insect, believed to have been brought over in the ballast of a Soviet tanker, arrived in Lake Huron in 1984 and has subse-

quently moved into lakes Erie, Ontario, Michigan and Superior.

The flea, *Bythotrephes cederstroemi*, likes to feed on a microscopic crustacean, *Daphnia*, which itself feeds on algae. What concerns the researchers is that *Daphnia* represents an important source of food for small native fish, which could be reduced if the flea eats too many crustaceans.

Studies have found that this may already be happening, with some populations of *Daphnia* having decreased since the flea's arrival.

Not all alien life forms have been brought by ship. Oriental weatherfish, *Misgurnus anguillicaudatus*, are believed to have escaped from an aquarium wholesaler into a river which drains into Lake Huron. The Eurasian milfoil, a plant used in aquariums, got into the Great Lakes as long ago as 1880. Now it is pushing out native

plants and clogging up waterways. The purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, which is damaging important wildlife habitat and has pushed out cattails, could have arrived from Europe as a garden plant or possibly with imported sheep a century ago.

Nevertheless, the recent arrivals and their potential for widespread ecosystem damage has prompted the authorities to act. From November, transoceanic ships will be required to unload fresh water ballast and take on sea water before going into the Great Lakes. The US coastguard is calling for a voluntary scheme to operate nationwide.

Concern for the Great Lakes has also prompted Congress to order the National Biological Invasions Shipping Study, which will try to calculate the amount and source of ballast entering fresh waters throughout the United States.

UPDATE

India set for space

INDIA intends to send probes to the planets, the head of the Indian Space Research Organisation says. Professor U R Rao told United News of India, the news agency, that the first satellite probe should be launched in six or seven years. India launched its first satellite in May this year. Professor Rao said that the first planetary mission would probably be to Mars, in 1998-99, and could be followed by missions to Mercury and Venus. He said he was not sure whether India could afford the cost of such ventures. "We must be ready with the technology and worry about the funds later. If the government cannot fund the entire project, we could collaborate with other countries," Professor Rao says.

New cancer tests

AMERICAN scientists have developed a simple blood test that detects malignant melanoma and other deadly cancers at their earliest and most curable stages. Dr Donald Morton, of the John Wayne Cancer Institute in Santa Monica, California, said the test analyses blood samples for the presence of a "tumour-associated antigen" which is produced by cancer cells. "This is the first step in the creation of an early cancer-detection programme for individuals who are at high risk of developing malignancy," Dr Morton said. In a study of the test's effectiveness on 250 healthy subjects and 419 patients with melanoma, sarcoma, breast, lung or colon cancer, 56 per cent of the cancer patients tested positive compared with only 3 per cent of the control group, he said.

Protein discovery

SCIENTISTS claim to have made an important step forward in the fight against Parkinson's disease, the progressive neurological disorder that causes tremors and rigid muscles. Researchers at the school of medicine at the University of California in Los Angeles have identified a protein that appears to be vital to healthy brain function. The protein, called chromaffin granule amine transporter or CGAT, aids nerve cells of toxic substances that may accumulate and lead to the type of brain-cell death seen in Parkinson's victims.

Genetic progress

RESEARCHERS in Cambridge and at the University of North Carolina have claimed success in developing a mouse model for the human genetic disease of cystic fibrosis (CF). The Cambridge team, based at the Institute of Cancer and Developmental Biology, have created a mutation on the equivalent gene in mice. When both parents carry this defective gene, their offspring show symptoms similar to those of CF sufferers. Similar results have been achieved at North Carolina and mean that the genetically engineered mice can now be used to test new therapies for the condition, which is Britain's most common inherited disease.

Faraday award

THE Royal Society has given the Michael Faraday Award for 1992 to Richard Gregory of the Psychology Department at the University of Bristol. Professor Gregory, whose work has encompassed vision and the brain, was given the annual award in recognition of his achievements in furthering the public understanding of science.



Current research: Professor Russ Davis (left) looks on as an assistant assembles an ALACE probe

Oceans of information

Down in the cold blackness 1,000 metres beneath the surface of the Pacific, one of Professor Russ Davis's creations stirs. Barely perceptibly, it starts to rise. Less than half an hour later it breaks through the waves and announces its arrival to an orbiting satellite. Then it falls silent and sinks back down again to continue its undersea voyage.

Called ALACE (for Autonomous Lagrangian Circulation Explorer), it is one of about 100 similar probes launched since 1990 that report back to their creator once every two weeks. Together they are giving Professor Davis, an oceanographer at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California, insights into the currents that drive the oceans deep beneath the waves.

The circulation of the oceans is intimately linked to the Earth's climate, distributing the sun's heat around the globe. Yet for years scientists have known little about these currents, especially those beneath the surface.

The first attempts to map them, made in the 1950s, involved dropping probes from ships and trying

Scientists have found a way to track the movement of currents

to follow them. This proved hopelessly expensive. It became obvious that the probes had to be capable of looking after themselves.

Starting in the early 1980s, it took Professor Davis and his colleagues ten years to crack the problem: "What took longest was trying to generate the energy for going up and down for a long time," Professor Davis says.

This involved making ALACE in the form of a 120-centimetre long aluminium tube with an overall density just a little greater than surface sea-water. This ensures ALACE will sink. But as it descends it travels through water which is under ever-greater pressure, and thus of increasing density. Eventually, about 1,000 metres below the surface, ALACE encounters water of the same density as itself. It then

stops descending and floats around under the influence of the currents.

To make ALACE come up again, an onboard battery-powered pump pushes oil into a membrane across the base of the aluminium case. As the membrane expands, the overall volume of ALACE increases, though its mass remains the same. The density of ALACE thus decreases again, and the probe rises.

Once on the surface, a one-watt transmitter announces "I'm back" to Argos, a French location system on board an American weather satellite. This gives Professor Davis the latest position of his ALACEs to within a few hundred metres, enabling him to work out the speed and direction of the currents.

By the end of the century, Professor Davis hopes an armada of 1,000 ALACEs will have given him the first detailed maps of the currents that swirl beneath the waves. The results will form part of the World Ocean Circulation Experiment, an international project aimed at understanding the link between oceans and climate.

ROBERT MATTHEWS

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No mental test for applicants

Regina v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council, Ex parte Lutful Rahman
Regina v Same, Ex parte Ferdous Begum
Before Lord Donaldson of Lynton, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Staughton
[Judgment July 30]

A person suffering from mental impairment who was homeless or threatened with homelessness was not prevented from making an application for housing under the Housing Act 1985 on the ground that he had insufficient capacity either to form the intention of applying or to understand that an application was being made on his behalf.

The Court of Appeal so held in granting an application for judicial review by Lutful Rahman of a decision of Tower Hamlets London Borough Council that by reason of mental impairment he was not entitled to an application for housing under section 62 of the Housing Act 1985.

The court also held that (i) allowing an appeal by Ferdous Begum from Mr Justice Rice (The Times December 12, 1991) who had dismissed an application for judicial review of the same local authority's decision that she too by reason of mental condition had not made an

application for housing under the 1985 Act.
Mr Robert Carnwath, QC and Mr Thomas Galligan for Lutful Rahman; Mr David Watkins and Mr Leslie Thomas for Ferdous Begum; Mr Ashley Underwood and Miss Lisa Giovannetti for the local authority.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that the applicants' primary argument was that there was no time to be drawn between those with sufficient understanding to make their own applications and those with insufficient understanding to make their own applications, and that those with insufficient understanding who were homeless or threatened with homelessness and whose plight ought to be considered and redressed within the framework of Part III of the Act.

His Lordship accepted Mr Carnwath's further argument that the question of who was the applicant was not a matter for the decision of the local housing authority to be challenged on the

ground of Wednesbury unreasonableness (Associated Provincial Picture Houses Ltd v Wednesbury Corporation [1948] 1 KB 223) but was a jurisdictional fact as to the point at which the housing authority's duties came into existence and fell to be reviewed on Wednesbury principles (R v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Khan [1984] AC 74).

Consequently, if the housing authority could be shown to have come to the wrong conclusion, the court might, if appropriate, substitute its own decision.

Mr Underwood had argued that the structure of the Act presupposed an applicant of sufficient understanding to be able to make an application or to consent to its being made on his behalf.

Those incapable of such understanding did not come within the Housing Act 1985 but their needs were to be met by the social services within the structure of the National Assistance Act 1948.

Such legislation was in accord with the expressed policy of government departments to accept within the community those who might in the past have been shut away in long-stay institutions.

The purpose of the framework of the overall legislation was to include those with mental illness or handicap without reference to any definable cut-off point of mental capacity.

An application might be made by a person with capacity to make it, or by another with the applicant's consent, or by someone on behalf of a person entitled to make the application but unable to do so through mental incapacity.

In that latter case the maker of the application had to demonstrate reasonable grounds for doing so and for acting on the actual applicant's behalf, and that he was acting bona fide in the interests of the person unable to act without such help.

Courts to beware outsider's promise

Attorney-general v Maitourea
Before Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Pill
[Judgment July 31]

When sentencing an offender, a court should only rarely consider accepting an undertaking by a third party to pay compensation instead of or in support of a compensation order against the offender.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so stated in dismissing proceedings for contempt of court brought by the Attorney-general against Jack Horner, Maitourea who was alleged to be in breach of an undertaking given to Southwark Crown Court to pay £25,000 to the victim of a theft committed by him.

Limitation period for serving amended writ

Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association v Christmas and Others (The Kyriaki)
Before Mr Justice Hirst
[Judgment July 21]

A writ which was amended to include new defendants had to be served on those defendants within the limitation period if it was not to be time barred.

Mr Justice Hirst so held in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division in *Inter alia*, granting a summary judgment by the defendants seeking an order to set aside amended writs served by the plaintiffs, Bank of America National Trust and Savings Association, who claimed as assignees of various marine insurance policies issued by the time defendants.

Mr Alistair Schaaf for the plaintiffs, Mr Richard Atkins, QC and Mr Neil Calver for the defendants.
MR JUSTICE HIRST said that the defendants argued that on the facts and on the meaning of section 35(3) of the Limitation Act 1980 the court was debarred from allowing a new claim involving the addition or substitution of a new party to be made after the expiry of the relevant limitation period.

In the present case, by Order 15, rule 8(4) of the Rules of the Supreme Court, as construed in *Kesteven v Hargreaves Ltd* [1987] AC 189, none of the defendants became parties until the writ had been properly amended and served on them, well outside the limitation period.

For the plaintiff, it was argued that, on the proper construction of section 35(3), all that was required was that the plaintiff should obtain leave to amend within the limitation period and no more.

The defendants' construction would, it was submitted, be extremely anomalous since it was an original writ, provided it was issued within the limitation period, could be served outside that period provided the general time limit for service was not exceeded.

While he accepted that Order 15, rule 8(4) was conclusive of the date when a new defendant became a party it was not conclusive on the limitation question and did not have the effect of establishing that the date of service was a critical stage for deciding whether the claim was time barred.

His Lordship accepted the defendants' submissions. In the case of a new defendant an order which permitted service upon him outside the limitation period was bad, as it was only at the date of service that the claim was effectively brought against him.

Thus Order 15, rule 8(4) was directly relevant and applicable.

His Lordship also rejected the submission that *Kesteven* could be distinguished because section 35(1) of the 1980 Act had reinstated the theory that joinder of a new defendant related back to the date of issue of the writ. It was in order to preserve the principle that joinder did not relate back that section 35(3) to (5) had been added.

Solicitors: Hill Taylor Dickinson; Ince & Co.

No duty to house dependent children

Regina v Berkey London Borough Council, Ex parte B
Regina v Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council, Ex parte G
Before Lord Justice Ralph Gibson, Lord Justice Nolan and Lord Justice Scott
[Judgment August 6]

A local housing authority was under no obligation to refuse a dependent child whose parent's application under section 62 of the Housing Act 1985 for permanent accommodation had been refused on the ground that they were intentionally homeless.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing appeals by (i) B, aged five, and (ii) G, aged four, against the decision of Mr Justice Henry (The Times April 20) of their applications for judicial review of (i) the decision of the London Borough of Berkey to refuse B's application for housing under section 62 of the Housing Act 1985 and (ii) the refusal by the Metropolitan Borough of Oldham to entertain an application by G to entertain his application for housing on the basis that it was a dependent child.

Mr David Watkinson for B; Miss Brenda Morris for Berkey.

Mr George Warr for G; Mr Timothy Straker for Oldham.
LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON said that the decision of Mr Justice Henry in the present case was decided before the Court of Appeal decision in *R v Tower Hamlets LBC, Ex parte Rahman*; *R v Same, Ex parte Ferdous Begum*.

In his Lordship's judgment, there was nothing in *Rahman* which required a rejection of the reasoning of Mr Justice Henry in the present case.

There was nothing in the Housing Act 1985 which suggested that Parliament contemplated an application for housing by a four-year-old dependent child. It was impossible to hold that Parliament intended to require a housing authority to make housing available for such a child.

The disqualification of intentional homelessness turned on deliberate actions which could also be taken on behalf of a child.

His Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Henry that a dependent child could not qualify for priority need.

A construction of the legislation argued for on behalf of the applicants was repugnant to common sense. To hold that a healthy dependent child could qualify for priority need by reason of infancy would be contrary to the intention of Parliament.

Lord Justice Nolan and Lord Justice Scott delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Norton & Co. Tottenham; Mr L. J. Birch, Bexleyheath; Mr P. Johnson, Oldham; Mr Neville D. Phillips, Oldham.

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PERSONAL COLUMN

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 AND IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the above-named company has been placed into liquidation by the Court of the Insolvency Act 1985, and that the liquidator, Mr. J. J. Carter, has been appointed by the Court. The liquidator's office is at 10, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF. The liquidator will receive claims against the company on the 26th day of August 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 27th day of August 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 28th day of August 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 29th day of August 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 30th day of August 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 31st day of August 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 1st day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 2nd day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 3rd day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 4th day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 5th day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 6th day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 7th day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 8th day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 9th day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 10th day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 11th day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 12th day of September 1992 at 10.30 a.m. and on the 13th day of September 1992 at 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BBC1

- 6.00 Cee-fax (49404) 6.30 BBC Breakfast News (6126715)
9.05 Defenders of the Earth. Space age cartoon (6705978) 9.25 Why Don't You...? Make a water bomb, cook these straws and learn to be a clown (r) (4923688)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (6380171) 10.05 Playdays (r) (s) (6172626) 10.25 Double Dare. Game show (r) (s) (3904423)
10.45 The O-Zone. Pop magazine (s) (6828688)
11.00 News, regional news and weather (1584084) 11.05 The Flying Doctors. Australian drama series (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (8279862) 11.50 National Trust Gardens. A visit to Ickworth House, near Bury St Edmunds in Suffolk (r) (6638339)
12.00 News, regional news and weather (7681794) 12.05 Summer Scene. Linda Mitchell and Carol Keating present the daily magazine programme from Ebbw Vale (5942065) 12.55 Regional News and weather (5124051)
1.00 One O'Clock News. (Cee-fax) Weather (95510)
1.30 Neighbours. (Cee-fax) (s) (43874336)
1.50 Eldorado. Monday evening's episode (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (61714607)
2.20 Over My Dead Body. Obits and Pieces. American crime drama series starring Edward Woodward (r) (s) (3294046)
3.05 Antiques Roadshow. The team visits York (r). (Cee-fax) (6591510)
3.30 Bugs Bunny Triple-Bill. Cartoon adventures (4291997)
4.10 Children's BBC Attack of the Killer Tomatoes. Fantasy cartoon series (r) (s) (11452794) 4.35 Tricky Business. Children's comedy series (r). (Cee-fax) (6003366) 5.00 Newsround (5903046) 5.10 Five Children and It. Last in the six-part adaptation of E. Nesbit's classic story (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (9040978)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (965442). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Anna Ford and Andrew Harvey. (Cee-fax) Weather (881)
6.30 Regional news magazines (133). Northern Ireland: Neighbours (r). (Cee-fax) (s)
7.00 Eldorado. (Cee-fax) (s) (3249)



Definitely not retiring: Thora Hird, Lynn Redgrave (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Fighting Back: Thora Hird
CHOICE: Thora Hird would probably not thank you for saying she was wonderful for her age but she jolly well is and even more so when you discover that for 30 years she has lived with crippling and intensely painful arthritis. But she has carried on almost regardless, hosting *Prize Be*, doing plays for Alan Bennett and forming part of that formidable team of imperious women in *The Last of the Summer Wine*. She is 81, has had three hip operations and may be heading for a fourth, and has no intention of retiring. Interviewed by Lynn Redgrave, who has only to offer the merest prompt, Hird gives a performance so selfless-pitying and so immaculate in its coming to terms with age and disability becoming almost a matter for celebration. No wonder that people are already queuing up to book her for 1993. (Cee-fax) (s) (317)
8.00 Casualty: Cascade. The final episode from the last series of this hospital drama. Beth's (Marta Kaash) leaving party is disrupted when a plane full of holidaymakers runs into trouble. With Derek Thompson and Cathy Shipton (r). (Cee-fax) (s) (844423)
8.50 Points of View. Anne Robinson presents viewers' comments on BBC television programmes (s) (953882)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Cee-fax) Regional news and weather (1626)
9.30 Cross of Fire. Concluding the mini series about the murder trial of D.C. Stephenson, the leader of the Ku Klux Klan in Indiana. Starring John Heard and Mel Harris. (Cee-fax) (s) (942997)
11.05 Film: Fran (1985). Downbeat Australian drama about a deserted mother of three, whose unorthodox and promiscuous lifestyle leads to conflict with the authorities. Starring Nomi Hazelhurst and Anne Byrnes. Directed by Glenda Hamby (962046)
12.00am Weather (885027)

BBC2

- 6.45-7.10 Open University. Data Models and Data Bases (5253317)
8.00 Breakfast News (3049404) 8.15 Bitten By the Bug (r) (3062355)
8.30 Women of Our Century. Miriam Rothschild (r) (87930)
9.00 Film: Italian Melody (1937, b/w). Jolly romantic musical about an Italian diplomat who anonymously helps a Cockney street singer to become a star in the London theatre. Wilton Ansell and Tullio Carminati. Directed by Herbert Wilcox (6055591)
10.10 Film: Hamlet (1948, b/w)
CHOICE: Laurence Olivier called his second Shakespeare film (after the rousing *Henry V*) the "tragedy of a man who could not make up his mind". It is a neat phrase to sum up a complex drama, here somewhat pruned to keep within a running time of two and a half hours. Contemporary reactions were mixed. Olivier the actor, a prince with striking blond hair, went on to win an Oscar. Olivier the director was attacked by Richard Wingington, a respected critic of the day, for visual trickery and an inability to make the film flow. Certainly, there seems a contradiction between the theatricality of the sets and costumes and cinematic devices such as tracking shots and deep focus. But it is a bold, accessible and atmospheric piece, with Olivier strongly supported by Eileen Herlie and Basil Sydney (king and queen). Jean Simmons' Ophelia (4973259)
12.40 In the Making: Cook. The head chef of a hotel (r) (4220347)
1.00 After Hours. American entertainment magazine (61142249)
1.20 Forget-Me-Not. Film. Children's cartoon (r) (63963133)
1.35 Swims: Novices. Tips on swimming (r) (61795572)
2.00 News and weather (9585510) followed by *Safe as Houses?* The housing crisis (r) (6597442) 2.35 Countryfile (r) (9150591)
3.00 News and weather (4377591) followed by *All Our Children*. Darnie Audi Dench narrates the story of the expectations of six babies around the world (r). (Cee-fax) (6599152) 3.50 News and weather, regional news and weather (6993065)
4.00 Craftsman. Film animator Bob Godfrey (r) (6384249)
4.15 Film: Artists and Models (1955). Frantic comedy starring Dean Martin as an artist whose comic strips are based on Jerry Lewis's top-secret nightmarish. With Shirley Maizland and Dorothy Malone. Directed by Frank Tashlin (57094423)
6.00 Star Trek: The Motion Picture. The first episode of the cult series intergalactic series. Captain Kirk and the crew of the Starship Enterprise have to outwit a deadly chameleon-like monster. Starring William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy (r). (Cee-fax) (641681)
6.50 Def Leppard. Def Leppard. Live through the Looking Glass. A revealing and often disturbing video self-portrait by anorexic teenager Julie (r) (328249)



Standard bearer: Yuri Temirkanov conducts (7.30pm)

- 7.30 Live From the Proms
CHOICE: As a useful interval film points out, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic has always managed to reflect the history of its country. It was formed in 1882 as the court orchestra of the Tsar and required to play for state occasions. After the communist revolution it was charged with the task of bringing cultural enlightenment to the masses and for half a century was ruled with Stalinist severity by the conductor Yevgeny Mravinsky. Yuri Temirkanov, who took over the baton just before communism collapsed, sees the orchestra as a standard-bearer for the new Russian democracy. In tonight's Prom, broadcast live from the Albert Hall, Temirkanov conducts a programme of Beethoven (*The Corsair* overture), Sibelius (*Violin Concerto*, with Maxim Vengerov) and, after the break, Tchaikovsky's *Manfred Symphony* (s) (39232152)
9.45 Screeners First: Through an Open Window (b/w). The American film maker Eric Mendelsohn wrote and directed this short film about a housewife who fears a bird has entered her house. With Anna Meares (732978)
10.10 Colour TV. The impact of the colour white (r) (233317)
10.30 Newsnight with Sue Cameron (486065)
11.15 Edinburgh Nights. The British concert debut of Edinburgh-born Donald Runnicles who conducts the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (s) (155572) 11.55 Weather (268626)
12.00 Open University. Changing Voices (39244). Ends at 12.30am

ITV

- 6.00 TV-am (5919354)
9.25 Jubilee. Today's guests on the cryptic word game show are the comedian Bobby Davro and 'Allo 'Allo's Vicki Michelle (s) (779775) 9.55 Thames News (5472220)
10.00 Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers. Cartoon (2762997)
10.25 The Fantastic Adventures of Mr. Ross. Animation (r) (2765084)
10.55 ITN News headlines (3109133)
11.00 OX Tales. Famyard double-bill (3119510) 11.25 Just for the Record. Record-breaking feats (r) (s) (1807591) 11.50 Thames News (5266626) 11.55 Canteen Time (6646330)
12.10 News at Ten. Entertainment for the very young (r) (s) (5933572)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News. (Orade) Weather (751972) 1.05 Thames News (6398844)
1.15 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (Orade) (182171)
1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama series (s) (181442)
2.15 Graham Kerr prepares waffles with spiced apple butter (173423)
2.45 Take the High Road. Highland soap (9143201) 3.10 ITN News headlines (4395997) 3.15 Thames News (4394268)
3.20 The Young Doctors (6126249)
3.50 Children's ITV: Goody Goody. Cartoon fun (r) (4277317) 4.15 Hulk Hogan. Adventures with the animated WWF wrestling champion (1446133) 4.40 Fun House. Messy game show hosted by Pat Sharp (r) (6325626)
5.10 Blockbusters. Bob Holmes hosts the general knowledge quiz for teenagers (4501084)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News with John Suchet. (Orade) Weather (110065) 5.55 Thames Help, with Jackie Spredley (r) (857152)
6.00 Home and Away. (Orade) (249)
6.30 Thames News (201)
7.00 Take Your Pick. The yes/no game show hosted by Des O'Connor, with Julie Wilson (s) (8317)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Orade) (713)



Proud parents: the Larkin family plan a wedding (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The Darling Buds of May: When the Green Woods Laugh. First of a two-part story from the first series of the comedy drama, adapted from the novels by H.E. Bates. Ma Larkin plans a lavish wedding for Mariette and Philip. Starring David Jason, Pam Ferris, Catherine Zeta Jones and Charlie Frank (r). (Orade) (s) (3591)
9.00 Film: Hostage (1987). Action thriller about the bond which develops between an escaped prisoner and the lonely widow she takes hostage. Starring Carol Burnett and Carrie Hamilton. Directed by Peter Levin. Continues after the news. (Orade) (3555)
10.00 News at Ten with Alison Stewart and Fiona Armstrong. Weather (86201) 10.30 Thames News (472143)
10.40 Film: Hostage. Conclusion. (Orade) (501713)
11.30 Hollywood Report. A British view of Tinseltown (s) (55404)
12.00 Film: Never Give an Inch (1971). Powerful drama starring Henry Fonda as the patriarch of a logging family who breaks a local strike in order to meet a timber contract. Co-starring Lee Remick and Paul Newman, who also directs (3053853)
2.10am Alfred Hitchcock Presents: There Was a Little Girl. The flirtatious relationship between a young girl and her stepfather turns to murder (6099843) 2.45 America's Top Ten (s) (24992)
3.15 Videofashion. Backstage before the French collections premiere (1918991) 3.40 Quiz Night. Pub and club team quiz (20780737)
4.10 Grand Ole Opry. Country and western music (r) (4252891)
4.40 Fifty Years On (b/w). Vintage newsreels (72817992)
5.00 Three Company. Like Father, Like Son. American comedy series about three fathers (12640)
5.30 ITN Morning News (67027). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Channel 4 Daily (2368256)
9.25 Radar Men from the Moon (b/w). Science-fiction series (7237591) 9.40 Footrot. Cartoon about a stray dog (2399201)
9.55 Get Smart. Secret agent spoof (9824713)
10.25 Film: Hold My Hand (1938, b/w). Musical comedy, starring Stanley Lupino in an adaptation of his own play, as a newspaper financier whose young ward accuses him of embezzlement. Directed by Thornton Freeland (7183249)
11.45 Air Post. A look at the GPO's early airmail service (4913356)
12.00 More Winners: His Master's Ghost. The first of a three-part mystery drama from Australia (r) (14572)
1.00 Sesame Street. Today's guest is the country music singer Waylon Jennings (r) (23220)
2.00 Film: At War With the Army (1950, b/w). Military farce starring Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis as entertainers, trying to adjust to life in the army. Directed by Hal Walker (757959)
3.40 Spacebook. NASA space film (4288423)
4.10 In Search of Scotland's Laird. The last in the series examines how the word "laird" is used to promote beef and lamb in Europe (r) (442)
4.30 Countdown. Words and numbers game (s) (626)
5.00 The Oprah Winfrey Show. A discussion on girls who date older men (s) (2315355)

Leader of the pack: super bunny, Old Holbun (5.50pm)

- 5.50 The Bunbury Tale. Scramble. The cartoon adventures of a team of sporting rabbits (s) (847775)
6.00 Treasure Hunt: Australia. Amelia Rice flies over Sydney in search of clues (r). (Teletext) (43084)
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow. Weather (594355)
7.50 Comment. A viewer's opinion on a topical subject (746152)
8.00 Brookside. Merseyside soap. (Teletext) (s) (5607)
8.30 Anton Mosimann. A documentary on the innovative chef prepares a meal using often overlooked and cheaper species of fish (r). (Teletext) (7442)
9.00 Coast of Dreams. The first of two programmes about the British expatriates who have made their home on Spain's Costa del Sol (r) (Teletext) (1997)
10.00 The Golden Girls: A Piece of Cake. Wise-cracking comedy with the Miami matrons. Sophia (Estelle Getty) recalls her fiftieth birthday (r). (Teletext) (17171)
10.30 (bits off) Josie. Highlights from the series featuring the versatile comedienne, actress and singer Josie Lawrence (r) (471133)
11.15 Mojo Working: The Rolling Stones. A celebration of the group's 30 years in the music business (s) (341997)
11.45 Siddy Moments on Tour with Julian Clary. The last in the series of cosmopolitan game shows from Scotland (r) (s) (420794)
12.30am Four-Matons. The series of Estonian animation concludes with two films, War and Hell (5989008)
1.10 Film: Mughal-E-Azam (1956). Epic adventure set in 16th-century India. Prince Salim clashes with his father, Emperor Akbar, over his romance with a dancer. In Hindi with English subtitles. Starring Dilip Kumar, Madhubala and Prichwari. Directed by K. Asif (59562379). Ends at 4.45

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode. The numbers next to each TV programme listing are VideoPlus+ numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. VideoPlus+ can be used with most video. Tap in the VideoPlus+ code for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus on 0800 121204 (call charged at 40p per minute plus 5p off-peak) or write to VideoPlus, Acorn Ltd, 5 Ivy House, Harewood, Leeds LS17 3TN. VideoPlus+ (TM), Pluscode (TM) and Video Programmer are trademarks of General Marketing Ltd.

- SATELLITE**
SKY ONE
Via the Astra and Maripol satellites
6.00am Sky One (59338) 6.30 Mrs. Peepert (59404) 6.45 Playhouse (53354) 7.00 The D.I. Kat Show (722046) 7.30 The Pyramid Game (62131) 8.00 Let's Make a Deal (59576) 8.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (50046) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (59978) 12.00 St. Elsewhere (50044) 1.00 St. Elsewhere (59794) 1.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (50046) 1.50 The Young and the Restless (59978) 2.00 St. Elsewhere (50044) 2.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (50046) 3.00 The Young and the Restless (59978) 3.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (50046) 4.00 The Young and the Restless (59978) 4.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (50046) 5.00 The Young and the Restless (59978) 5.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (50046) 6.00 The Young and the Restless (59978) 6.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (50046) 7.00 The Young and the Restless (59978) 7.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (50046) 8.00 The Young and the Restless (59978) 8.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (50046) 9.00 The Young and the Restless (59978) 9.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (50046) 10.00 The Young and the Restless (59978) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful 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